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WORLD OF SPORT
Mark Philippoussis crashes back to earth
Down Under
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY

Fatah wins 67 seats on PA Council

JON IMMANUEL

AFTER an update of election results last night, the 88-member Palestinian council will include 52 Fatah members, 15 Fatah activists running as independents, 15 other independents, four Islamists, and two affiliated with other parties. Many women were disappointed to find they had only four seats, instead of the seven that it looked like they had won.

Zahira Kamal and Rana Nashashibi, both strong advocates of women's rights, lost their bids in Jerusalem. Rawya Shawa lost in Gaza. This leaves Hanan Ashrawi as the only woman elected in Jerusalem. She came in second with 17,738 votes, way ahead of the rest of the field, beaten only by chief Oslo negotiator and Palestinian Authority Economics Minister Ahmad Qreia (Abu Aib), who logged 18,618.

The other Jerusalem seats will be held by Ziad Abu Zayyad, well-known on Israel Radio as a commentator. He is also an arms control negotiator at multilateral talks and editor of the English-language *Palestine-Israel Journal*. He received 8,397 votes.

Ahmad Zghayeh of Fatah, who heads an agricultural marketing cooperative, also won a seat. The other two are Fatah members Hatem Eid, brother of Bassem Eid the human rights activist, and Emile Jarjous of Fatah, who won the second Christian seat. Ashrawi won the first.

In other changes, PA Sports Minister Azmi Suaidi won in Ramallah, but Housing Minister Zakaria al-Agha lost in Gaza, the only minister to lose. Marwan Kanafani, Arafat's spokesman, also won a seat.

Imad Falouji, the former Hamas activist who defected to Fatah, and Sufian Abu Zayde, well-known for his appearances in the Israeli media as a Fatah and prisoners' spokesman, both lost in North Gaza.

Outstanding winners in their districts were former Washington chief negotiator Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, who heads what is now a one-member National Democratic Coalition, with 57,795 votes in Gaza City. He was followed by Fakri Shakouri, Gaza's military intelligence chief, with 54,863. Salah Taamari, married to the former queen Dina of Jordan, scored 17,876 votes in Bethlehem, twice as many as his nearest rival.

The figures were supplied by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center.

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Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and retired general Colin Powell meet in Washington yesterday. (AP)

Israel, Tunisia to open interest sections

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

ISRAEL and Tunisia will open interest sections in the Belgian embassies in Tunis and Tel Aviv by April 15, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced yesterday. The offices will facilitate bilateral "political consultations, travel, and trade," Christopher, flanked by Foreign Ministers Ehud Barak and Habib Ben Yahia, told reporters at the State Department.

Barak said the move "is an important step forward in the long journey to normalized relations between Israel and its neighbors in the Middle East and throughout the Mediterranean ... I look forward to the further development of our bilateral relationship with Tunisia." Christopher called the development "an important step to widen the circle of peace."

Christopher said the US will "continue to stand by those who take risks for peace." In their earlier bilateral meeting, Ben Yahia and Christopher discussed expanding bilateral economic ties and increasing US investment in Tunisia through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The two also discussed threats against Tunisia in light of its advancement in the peace process, and Christopher said the US takes "such threats seriously." Asked when relations with Israel will be fully normalized, Ben Yahia said Tunisia's policy is that there must be "harmonization between the normalization process and the peace process itself."

Meshulam gang faces probe for taunting Shahal

RAINE MARCUS

A PROBE is to be launched into the activities of Uzi Meshulam's followers, following a TV news item showing their children hanging Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal in effigy. National investigations chief Cmdr. Yossi Levy, who announced the investigation, said Meshulam's followers have set Shahal as a target. In the film shown on Channel 1, the supporters' children danced around the effigy in Haifa chanting, "Shahal, your time is up."

showed Meshulam's supporters singing a jingle which included the words: "Shahal - a high-class thing... at Yehud he tried to shut all our mouths... He murdered Shlomi [Assulin], shot dead when he fired at a police helicopter in cold blood... Shahal, your time is up." A shocked Shahal said yesterday the police would not respond hastily, but that Meshulam's group is extremely dangerous. Some two weeks ago three of Meshulam's followers were arrested near Shahal's Haifa home after posting anti-Shahal fliers through postboxes in the area.

MKs discuss threats to Shahal; Meshulam petitions for release, Page 3

However, Levy vehemently denied a report that armed militia groups of Meshulam's supporters are being formed in the territories.

"There are no such armed militia groups," said the Israel Police spokesman. However an investigation has been launched by the National Crimes Squad into allegations of illegal activities and distributing seditious material.

Since the 1994 siege at Meshulam's Yehud home, which culminated in his imprisonment, police have continually warned against possible dangers by fringe elements of the group.

One senior police officer said then: "The 'fun' is just starting. These people are dangerous. Meshulam has all the psychological characteristics of a sect leader - brilliant, charismatic, paranoid, mad, and his behavior is without limits. He also has extraordinary powers of persuasion. His supporters follow him blindly." A TV broadcast yesterday

Amir trial resumes as High Court rejects plea for delay

EVELYN GORDON

THE trial of Yigal Amir will resume today in Tel Aviv District Court, after the High Court of Justice yesterday threw out a petition asking for a postponement.

It is still not known how Amir will plead, since lawyers Jonathan Goldberg and Mordechai Ofri have said their client "only meant to paralyze Yitzhak Rabin" and not to kill him. Another possible line of defense will be insanity, and Goldberg has already said he intends to bring medical experts to testify on Amir's mental state.

Goldberg wanted the trial postponed until after the Shamgar Commission has presented its conclusions, saying the commission's findings might influence his line of defense. He also charged that he has not yet received all the evidence from the District Attorney's Office, and that he has not yet had a chance to study some of what he has received, because it was given to him only within the last few days.

Tel Aviv District Court Judge Edmund Levy had rejected Goldberg's request for a continuance, saying the Shamgar Commission's findings are irrelevant to the case, and that the state had already given Goldberg all the evidence. Justices Theodor Orr, Yitzhak Zamir, and Zvi Tal upheld this decision.

The High Court does not interfere in procedural decisions made by lower courts about a trial, the justices said. Even if it did, however, there would be no justification for doing so in this case, because Goldberg's claims were groundless, they added.

Furthermore, they noted, Levy said he would reconsider Goldberg's request for a delay if circumstances changed. If new evidence is received, the defense is free to reapply, they said. Raine Marcus contributed to this report.

FM: Elections won't dictate peace terms

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE 1996 Israeli and American elections will not dictate Jerusalem's approach to negotiating a peace treaty with Syria, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said yesterday.

"I think the US understands our position - that you can't tie the diplomatic process to the elections. We have to handle the advancement of the process according to the will of the parties to reach peace," Barak told Israeli reporters following a White House meeting with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, at which President Bill Clinton briefly participated.

"What we get done before the elections we get done ... and what we don't we'll get done after the elections," he said.

This approach will help convince the Israeli public that the Peres government is handling the negotiations in a "responsible manner," Barak said.

"It wouldn't be right to conduct a negotiation when it has a target date hanging over it, or even [create] the sense that we are willing to cut a deal at any price. A target date has a nature that gives the other side an extra card," said Barak.

He added that the complex set of agreements that need to be concluded to end the Israeli-Syri-

an conflict - including pacts on water, terrorism, Lebanon, and security arrangements - "cannot be solved with the wave of a hand." This is what accounts for the "slow" progress in the peace talks, Barak said. The talks resume in Maryland tomorrow.

Clinton told reporters the US will stand by what the parties conclude, but would not impose any solutions. This US approach to the peace process has accounted for the diplomatic successes in the Middle East over the last three years, he said.

At the State Department earlier, Christopher told reporters that the US, Syria, and Israel are "all aware the peace process is entering a critical phase and we have a lot of work ahead of us."

He said he and Clinton hope that a peace agreement could be reached this year.

Barak, on his first visit to the US as foreign minister, is to meet with congressional leaders today before flying to Israel tonight.

Syria's highest political body said yesterday the resumed peace negotiations with Israel are "a positive step" on the way toward achieving a peace settlement.

The Central Command of the National Progressive Front, which groups six political parties dominated by the ruling Baath Party, reiterated Syria's commitment to "a just and comprehensive peace," based on an Israeli withdrawal from Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

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Liba'i: Freeing Jews who killed Arabs is possible

EVELYN GORDON

JUSTICE Minister David Liba'i said yesterday that if Israel releases Palestinian prisoners guilty of killing or injuring Jews, he will consider President Ezer Weizman's suggestion to release Jews guilty of killing Arabs as well.

Speaking to reporters in Gaza, Liba'i noted that Weizman has said in the past that he will pardon Jewish killers of Arabs if Arab killers of Jews are set free. Liba'i - who must forward requests for pardons to the president - said that while he has not yet made up his mind on the issue, he would certainly consider Weizman's idea.

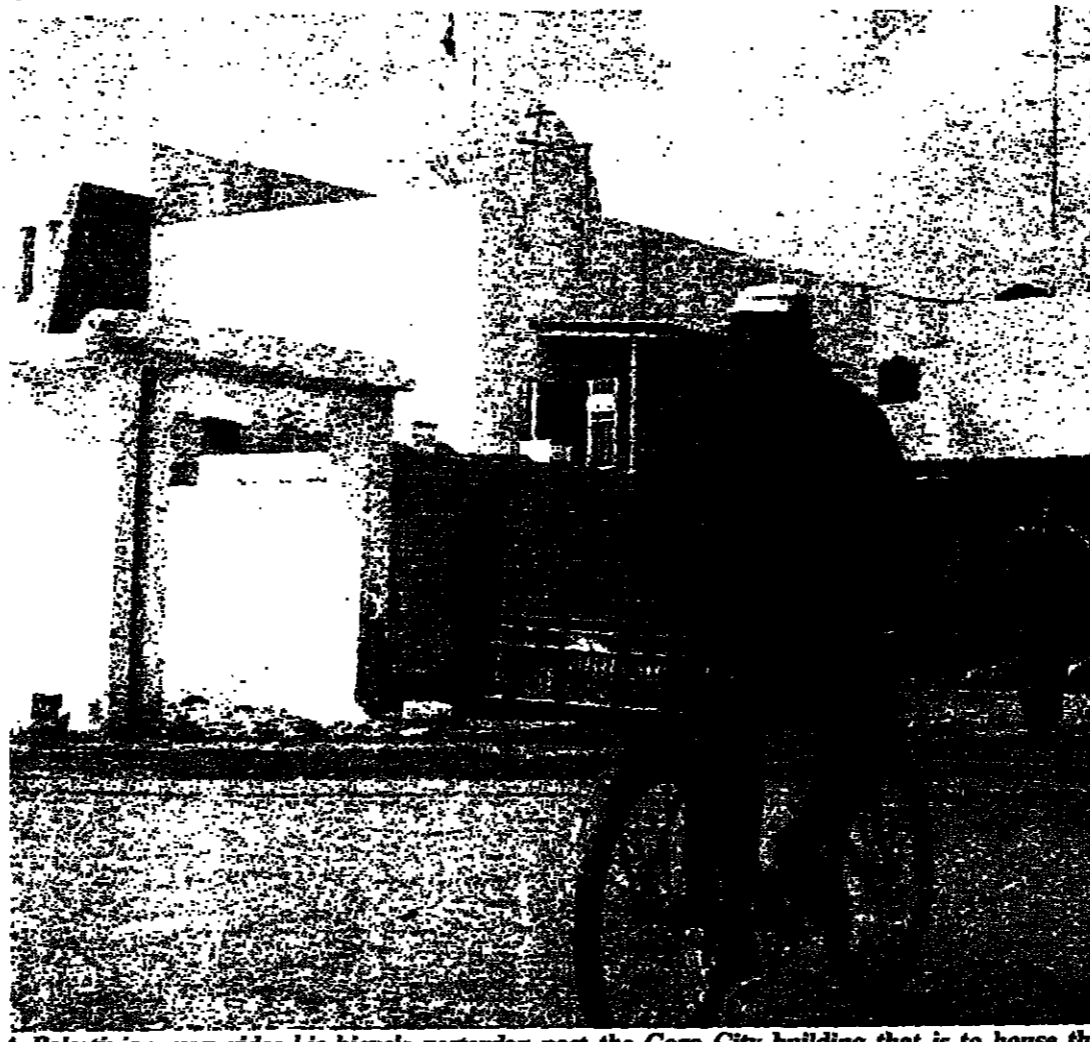
"There is a certain problem of reciprocity here," he said.

The justification for releasing prisoners under the Oslo accords is that their crimes were committed for ideological reasons, as part of a struggle that has since

been resolved by the peace process. However, Jews who killed Arabs were also usually motivated by ideological reasons, and could therefore argue that an amnesty on crimes committed as part of the Arab-Israeli struggle should apply to them as well, Liba'i explained.

Liba'i was in Gaza for a meeting of the joint Israeli-Palestinian legal committee. The meeting was canceled by Palestinian Authority Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein, because the newly elected PA council has not yet decided who will hold the justice portfolio.

However, Liba'i used the opportunity to warn Abu Medein that if the PLO fails to amend its covenant calling for Israel's destruction, this would have "serious consequences" for the peace process.



A Palestinian man rides his bicycle yesterday past the Gaza City building that is to house the Palestinian Council. Announcement of the Gaza vote results has been held up pending a recount.(AP)

Bassam Abu-Sharif returns from Jordan today

BASSAM Abu-Sharif, the former terrorist who became the foremost PLO spokesman for Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation in the months before the Oslo negotiations, is to return from Jordan today.

Abu-Sharif, whose family comes from Jerusalem, found himself abroad as a student when the Six-Day War erupted in 1967. He joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and never held an official position in the PLO, but became very close to Yasser Arafat in 1974, following an epiphany he experienced in 1972, after the Mossad sent him a book on South American guerrilla leader Che Guevara.

The book exploded in his face, blinded him in one eye, deafened him in one ear, and tore off two

fingers and the thumb of his right hand.

Abu-Sharif was the chief spokesman for the PFLP, when it was hijacking planes and organizing such spectaculars as the Lod Airport massacre.

Abu-Sharif became well-known from his appearance on the cover of *Time* magazine. He also claimed he gave the master terrorist "Carlos" his *nom de guerre*. But he denied, after his brush with death, that he was anything more than a PFLP spokesman and editor of its magazine *Al-Hadaf*.

On his recovery bed, "with a tube down my throat and my jaws wired together, there was nothing to do but think," he wrote in an

JON IMMANUEL

autobiography. Abu-Sharif decided that violence was not the way and, in 1974, "went to the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers a changed man... I made a very important discovery: that maybe Arafat was not as much of a hawk as he pretended to be."

From then on, Abu-Sharif encouraged contact with Israelis and became the first stop for any Israeli journalist seeking contact with the PLO.

Arafat used him to send up trial peace balloons, which he usually shot down when Abu-Sharif came under fire from PLO hawks. However, after the Washington talks began in 1991, the balloons went up faster. Early in

1993, Abu-Sharif began talking about a Gaza-Jericho solution, which few took seriously until the Oslo agreement burst upon an unsuspecting world.

With the Oslo accords, Abu-Sharif disappeared. As he put it, having no official position in the PLO, belonging to no faction, he was seen as "an upstart and interloper" and could not compete with others for a position on negotiating teams and the Palestinian Authority.

In a telephone interview on Channel 1 last night, he said he supports changing the Palestinian Covenant. "There is no logical reason why the PNC shouldn't amend the covenant in a way that would coincide with the political program of the PLO adopted in 1988."

Lawyer held for complaining about fraud in PA poll

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN Preventive Security police in Dahariyeh released a lawyer several hours after he was arrested for complaining about election fraud in Hebron.

Hussein Shiyouhi went to the central election commission office in Hebron, shouting that there had been fraud, after 47 ballot boxes from neighboring villages disappeared for several hours and then turned up.

Shiyouhi's brother Azmi was an independent, pro-Fatah candidate in the election and narrowly lost.

Shiyouhi complained that votes had been taken from his brother, which would have won him a seat, local sources said.

Members of the family demonstrated outside the election office, complaining that the commission was helping some candidates against others.

In Gaza, several ballots in Khan Yunis and Jabalya were invalidated after apparent tampering with the boxes.

US congratulates Palestinians

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

THE US yesterday congratulated the Palestinians on Saturday's elections, saying that they "serve as a testament to the ability of the peace process to produce results for those who embrace it."

State Department Spokesman Nicholas Burns said in a statement that with the elections over, "it is important that the newly elected [Palestinian] council promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights."

He said the US will continue to help the Palestinians in developing democratic institutions.

"We share the view of the in-

ternational monitoring committee that the election was a successful and historical opportunity for the Palestinian people democratically to choose their leaders."

France also hailed the huge turnout and Arafat's triumphant election.

President Jacques Chirac was one of the first world leaders to congratulate Yasser Arafat. "Through you, the Palestinian people have clearly chosen peace, stability and economic development in the Middle East," he told him in a letter.

Zo Artzenu says it has launched armed patrols in territories

HERB KEINON

ZO Artzenu has recently begun armed patrols on the Gush Etzion-Jerusalem road through Bethlehem, both to "demonstrate a presence on the road" and to "provide security" for Jewish travelers.

"The idea," said Shmuel Sackett, one of the heads of Zo Artzenu, is "to make sure that if a car carrying Jews breaks down, we will help the people, as opposed to the Palestinian Police. We will get the people out of there; we will assist them."

He said the same thing applies to cars coming under attack from stone throwers.

Sackett, along with Zo Artzenu heads Moshe Feiglin and Benny Elon, is currently on trial for sedition in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court for his part in organizing anti-government protests over the summer.

Boaz Goldenberg, spokesman for the Samaria and Judea Police District, said the police have not heard of any armed Jewish patrols, besides the IDF, in the territories. But, he said, "we will not tolerate the formation of militias."

Sackett denied that the purpose of the patrols is to look for a confrontation with the Palestinian Police. "We do not respond to orders from the Palestinian Police," Sackett said. "If there is a confrontation, it will come from their side."

Currently, the patrols operate three times a week, four hours a day, on the Bethlehem road, Sackett said.

European FMs visit Orient House

EUROPEAN foreign ministers Suzanna Anieli of Italy, Dick Spring of Ireland, and Carlos Westendorp of Spain met with Faisal Hussein and other leading Palestinian officials at Orient House in Jerusalem yesterday.

Palestinian sources said discussions centered on the election results and their effects on the peace process. There was no official Israeli reaction, reflecting the government policy of not trying to stop meetings with foreign dignitaries at Orient House, unless they are heads of state.

Bill Hutman

Deri seeks single electoral list for religious parties

SARAH HONIG

THE religious parties are discussing the formation of a single electoral bloc in the upcoming Knesset race. Representative of the parties conferred yesterday, but with no result.

The idea is the brain child of Shas' Aryeh Deri, and the other religious parties see his move as chiefly motivated by self preservation.

According to the proposal brought by Deri to the National Religious Party and the Agudat Yisrael and Degel Hatorah components of United Torah Judaism, all of them would field a single Knesset list. They will retain their independent status, but the slots on the slate would be "apportioned according to the ratio of their current Knesset representation."

That is unacceptable to all of the other parties concerned. Degel Hatorah and Aguda are still bickering over their 1992 deal. Aguda is at present underrepresented with a single MK, and there is no chance it will agree to freezing the status quo. The NRP hopes to increase its representation, and all the parties expect a decline in Shas' fortunes.

Meanwhile, Aguda and Degel are reported as unlikely to run together again. The situation may change before the opening of the actual campaign, but both are now gearing up for separate campaigns.

Police hold settlement secretary for alleged interference

HERB KEINON

A SECRETARY in the office in Yitzhar was arrested yesterday for allegedly interfering with police trying to track down 10 settlement residents and hand them the administrative orders restricting their movement issued last month.

Boaz Goldenberg, the spokesman for the Samaria and Judea Police District, said that the secretary, Rahel Shibo, 35, interfered with the police.

According to Yitzhar activist Yehuda Lieberman, Shibo asked the policemen to leave her office when they began searching it without proper warrants, and then - when asked the whereabouts of the men - said she did not know them. Most of the men are students at the Od Yosef Hai Yeshiva in Nablus. Lieberman said that nine vans full of policemen converged on the settlement.

Some 15 administrative orders have been issued over the last month against students and teachers at the yeshiva, barring them from entering the yeshiva, and others from travel anywhere in Judea and Samaria.

The police, however, have not succeeded in tracking down and handing the orders directly to about 10 of the men.

WJC, WZO expected to merge

MARILYN HENRY

EDGAR Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, is expected to announce its merger with the World Zionist Organization, highly placed WJC sources said last night. The merger could come within the year, at the time of the WZO centennial.

Bronfman is expected to make the announcement this week at the global assembly of the WJC, which opened yesterday in Jerusalem. In the past, Bronfman has suggested that many Jewish organizations are redundant, and that scarce Jewish funds are being squandered to support superfluous agencies.

The merger was seen as Bronfman following his own advice. The WZO is affiliated with the Jewish Agency. Although the two are essentially indistinguishable, it is not clear how the Jewish Agency would be affected.

The Diaspora-focused WJC was created 60 years ago in a move initiated by the WZO.

Core of controversy: Palestinian Covenant

Why is cancelling the Palestinian Covenant important?

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has frequently said that the covenant, which calls for the destruction of Israel, obviously no longer has any validity after Oslo 1 and Oslo 2. Israel says if it really has no validity there should be no problem changing it.

The matter is a supreme psychological weapon for both sides, since clearly, whether the covenant is valid or not does not add or detract one iota from the actual ability of the PLO and Israel to destroy each other. Neither will it affect relations with other Arab states. If the Palestinians can cancel it, they can also, presumably, vote to revoke the cancellation at a later date.

How many Palestinians here support canceling it?

About 50% of Palestinians here say the covenant should be changed only when Israel clearly affirms its intention to accept a Palestinian state. The newly elected 88-member council, which will join the Palestinian National Council, may be even more militant.

What does Arafat say to that?

Recent statements by Arafat and his deputy Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) that Saturday's election means that the Palestinians are now "five minutes from statehood" and that they will unilaterally "declare a state within three years" sound militant. But they can also be used by Arafat to argue that the PNC should change the covenant now.

If elections have set the peace process on the road to inevitable statehood, the Palestinians do not need a commitment from Israel concerning statehood and can only gain by reaffirming their commitment not to destroy Israel.

Will cancelling the covenant end terrorism?

Some people will not recognize that the PNC has the right to annul the covenant, however many members do so. The Islamic groups and Abu Nidal, the only people seriously committed to Israel's destruction, are not even members of the PLO or PNC. They are not "legally" bound by PNC resolutions and are free to continue terror against Palestinian "traitors" and Israelis. But like the elections themselves, cancelling the covenant will further marginalize these groups.

When was the current PNC established?

The PNC was established in 1964. The PLO was established at the same meeting. The covenant was published in 1968. Arafat became head of the PLO and PNC in 1969.

How many members does it have?

Different sources give different numbers. Salim Zaanoun, the acting speaker, says 540. Nabil Shaah says 450. PLO executive committee member Suleiman Najjab says there are 482 members outside and 180 members inside the territories, a total of 662. The PNC has met 20 times in 31 years, never with all its members present.

Who chose them and by what criteria were they chosen?

The PNC's membership is divided among the different PLO factions. Each faction sends its representatives to the PNC after electing or selecting them. So the PNC is not a true elected body. It has sometimes met with only members of Fatah and its affiliates, after opposition groups in the PLO boycotted it.

Does Arafat need to bring in exiled Palestinians to win a two-thirds majority for changing the covenant?

Since Israel began allowing exiled Palestinians to return in early 1993, about 200 members of the PNC have already returned, by Najjab's estimate. This means there are already 380 living under the Palestinian Authority. If Shaah's low figure of 450 (which is also Arafat's) is accepted, as the total, then more than two-thirds of the members already live here. If the high figure is accepted, less than two-thirds live here.

In any case no more than 80 would have to return to reach the required two-thirds, but psychologically it would be easier for PNC members to change the covenant if they felt there were no restrictions on any member.

How many of the PNC members in exile are wanted as terrorists?

A handful. The PNC is an all-encompassing body. The most prominent outlaws who have attacked civilian targets are George Habash, whose Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijacked aircraft two decades ago; Mohammed Abbas, who staged the *Achille Lauro* hijacking in 1985; and Ahmed Jibril, who heads the PFLP-General Command and is also thought to be in the pay of Iran. Nayef Hawatmeh, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has normally attacked only military targets.

Jon Immanuel

Tzur: We will not abandon SLA or residents of zone

DAVID RUDGE

AGRICULTURE Minister Ya'acov Tzur yesterday pledged that Israel would not abandon the South Lebanese Army or residents of the security zone in the event of any peace accords with Syria and Lebanon.

Tzur spoke at the inauguration of an agricultural school inside the zone to help train Lebanese in modern farming methods.

As the ceremony was taking place, in pouring rain, there were reports from another sector of the zone that an SLA soldier had been moderately wounded in a roadside bomb attack, as fighting continued in the region.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack near Huleh village, in the zone's central sector. An explosive device was detonated alongside an SLA patrol and simultaneously gunmen opened fire with mortars and heavy machine guns at an SLA position in the same area.

The wounded SLA soldier was treated in the field and was later evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

"There has been cooperation between us for many years which has withstood many tests," Tzur

told SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, as well as many SLA officers and soldiers and residents of the zone who attended the inauguration ceremony yesterday.

He said the blood of SLA soldiers had mingled with that of IDF troops in the joint defense of the region and Israel's northern settlements.

This partnership in war and tension, said Tzur, will continue and strengthen in the event of peace in the region and Israel will stand by its commitments to all residents of the zone.

"This is not mere talk, but a fact a life which expresses our many years together and it will be the basis for our neighborliness in the future," said Tzur.

The agricultural school, consisting of a high-tech farming greenhouse and chicken shed, was established near the northern border at a cost of \$200,000.

Tzur said he hoped the mini-farm would become a model for helping the development of high-tech farming in Lebanon, and that in the coming years war in the region would be replaced by economic growth and development.

With sadness we announce the passing of
Mrs BELLA KELMAN-FUCHS
née Shindergrin
in her 89th year in Johannesburg

Deeply mourned by children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
The funeral will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, January 24, 1996 (3 Shvat, 5756), leaving from Sanhedria at 12 noon for Givat Shaul, Shiva at 10/3 Rehov Arlozoroff, Jerusalem.
Shacharit 6:30 a.m., mincha 5 p.m., ma'ariv 5:45 p.m.

Issy & Dorit Kelman and family, Jerusalem
Moshe & Rose Kelman and family, Jerusalem
Betty & Shalom Gittelman and family, London
Elliot & Alice Kelman and family, Jerusalem
David & Wendy Kelman and family, California
Max Kelman, Jerusalem
Fay & Rabbi Mordechai Korn and family, Johannesburg
Rabbi Yonni & Orly Kelman and family, Emanuel
Melanie Kelman and family, Kibbutz Shalavim
Miriam Ziderman-Pitrik and family, Jerusalem
Moe & Helen Fuchs and family, Jerusalem
Norma & Jerry Rosenfeld and family, Rehovot

On the 30th day of the passing of
our beloved
Nitza Etra-Dagan

We will honour her memory
on Thursday, January 25, 1996,
at the Yarkon Cemetery.
The unveiling will take place at 15:30 p.m.

Thank you to all those who have
comforted us.
Her mother, sons, sister and
the entire family.

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Postal Bank to fill Friday banking gap

WHEN the commercial banks say "Never on Friday" in a few months, the Postal Bank will take over some of the slack. Negotiations are proceeding between the big banks and the Postal Authority, which plans to offer customers of commercial banks a number of banking services on Fridays until 2 p.m.

When the commercial banks decided agreed last week to insti-

tute a five-day week without opening on Friday, the public was upset to lose this popular banking day. The authority, with Postal Bank branches in every post office, intends to fill the gap - the Postal Bank already offers checking accounts without charging the stiff fees of commercial banks.

Authority director-general Raa Levin, presenting its balance sheets for 1995 at a press confer-

ence yesterday, said that five Postal Bank branches already carry out foreign currency exchange transactions for tourists without charging fees. The authority hopes to increase their number and eventually handle foreign-currency transactions for Israelis as well.

The authority aims at becoming

a profit-making, state-owned company, turning its Postal Bank into a subsidiary competing with the commercial banks - even carrying out some stock market transactions. Levin said mail delivery will provide data on their customers' names and addresses towards the establishment of a computerized data bank of current addresses.

Since nearly a fifth of all Israel-

is move each year and many fail to report address changes to the Interior Ministry, there is no other accurate list, and many letters go undelivered, he said.

Another major effort for 1996 is the Ma'aleh Project, in which post office branches will be able to print out forms from a variety of public bodies. This will save the public a lot of red tape, Levin said.



Likud party chief Benjamin Netanyahu (left), former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (center), and MK Dov Shilansky attend the funeral yesterday in Jerusalem of ideologue Israel Eldad.

Israel Eldad, at 86

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL Eldad, who was a pre-state underground leader and for years the ideological guide of the right wing, died yesterday at the age of 86.

The Likud said it had lost the "spiritual father of the Hebrew revolution, who groomed generations of fighters toward the realization of and dedication to the love of the people and the land."

Eldad was buried yesterday afternoon on the Mount of Olives.

Born in Ukraine, Eldad became one of the founding members of Betar. He earned a PhD from the University of Vienna and immigrated to Palestine in 1941. After Avraham Stern's death, Eldad was one of the three leaders of Lehi, the most militant of the underground groups fighting for independence.

After Israel's independence,

Eldad became the editor of the nationalist periodical *Sulam*, which espoused maximalist Revisionist goals of restoring Israel's biblical boundaries.

In 1950 Eldad became a lecturer at the Technion, and his translations into Hebrew included Nietzsche.

Following the Six Day War, Eldad became a leader of the Movement for the Greater Land of Israel.

Eldad bitterly opposed the Oslo Accords. During the IDF troop withdrawal from Judea and Samaria last month, Eldad wrote in his weekly column in *Yedioth Aharonot*: "Whoever does not feel the loss and the destruction - does not understand that this is the most dangerous assassination of all - the daily cutting away of the body and the soul."

Meshulam plus seven petition for release

EVELYN GORDON

UZI Meshulam and seven of his followers yesterday asked the Supreme Court to let them out of prison until it rules on their appeal against the conviction for which they are serving time.

Tel Aviv District Court sentenced Meshulam last February to eight years in prison, for endangering lives, conspiracy, aggravated assault, illegal possession and manufacture of weapons, and other charges. Eleven of his followers were sentenced with him. Four of them have already been released. The remaining seven are serving terms of 2½-4½ years.

All eight have appealed their convictions, and the Supreme Court finished hearing the case in

September, but has not yet issued its verdict.

Attorney Zadok Hugi, representing the group, argued that if the prisoners are not released now, most will have already served so much of their sentence that the appeal will be useless even if they win. All have been in jail for about 20 months, including time prior to conviction.

The four who have already been released are not causing any trouble, Hugi added, so it is reasonable to assume that the eight who are still in prison would also behave properly if released on bail. In addition, the court could impose various restrictions, or even put them under house arrest, he said.

Knesset debates threat from Meshulam followers

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday discussed the continued threats against Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal by followers of Uzi Meshulam, after the subject was raised as an urgent motion on the agenda by Dedi Zuckler (Meretz) and Ovadia Eli (Likud).

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who answered on the government's behalf, said Meshulam has about 1,000 followers, not all of them active.

"It's a marginal but very, very dangerous group which could turn in a flash from one which just talks to one which takes action," Sarid said. "Read the writing on the wall - the danger is at the gate."

Sarid said many of the followers are armed and trained in weapons use and had proved what they are capable of when

they shot at police in Yehud and wounded a prison service officer in Kiryat Malachi.

"The whole House warns against the danger," said Speaker Shevah Weiss. Weiss, who also warned against besmirching the entire Yeminite community because of Meshulam's actions.

Zucker quoted Meshulam's writings comparing Israeli soldiers to Adolf Eichmann.

Eli called on the government and police to take immediate firm action. "We are witnessing a terrible and ugly phenomenon of illegal militias acting through blackmail, force, terror, and threats. In such a system, any democracy could become anarchy," Eli said.

Speaking outside the plenum, Shahal said he would not be intimidated by threats.

Wildcat strike results in airport delays

HAIM SHAPIRO

PASSENGERS at Ben-Gurion Airport faced delays and inconvenience yesterday as a result of an open-ended strike by Airports Authority workers.

The workers called a meeting at 4 p.m., thus delaying the unloading of baggage from an Allia flight from Rome, a TAP flight from Portugal, and a Transaero flight from Russia. Passengers faced the alternative of waiting indefinitely for their baggage or leaving without it.

Takeoff was delayed for a Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt and an Aeroflot flight to Moscow. An El Al flight to Kiev was allowed to leave, because it is to return with immigrants.

Airline officials could not say how long the strike would last. The Airports Authority described the work stoppage as unjustified; it reportedly followed the firing of an authority employee.

Police crack case of stolen hanukkiot

BILL HUTMAN

FIVE ancient hanukkiot stolen last month in Jerusalem were recovered last week when a lawyer tried to sell them back to the Israel Museum.

Lawyer Ariel Leshem and Yitzhak Kimbe, the man he said he was working for, were both arrested. Police said more arrests are likely, perhaps even of museum workers.

The hanukkiot were stolen three weeks ago from Ticho House, where they were on loan from the museum, in what looked like an inside job, with no signs of a break-in.

Last week, the museum's chief Judaica collector, Iris Fischhof, received a series of anonymous phone calls from a man who offered to sell them back to the museum for NIS 100,000.

She contacted the police, who were able to solve the case when the caller said his lawyer would call Fischhof to set up a meeting. Leshem then called Fischhof

and allegedly told her he knew the hanukkiot were stolen, and suggested they meet at his home later that night. He said he would sell the hanukkiot - valued by museum officials at about \$100,000 - for NIS 100,000, and also demanded another NIS 7,500 for his "services."

Fischhof, under instructions from police, agreed and added that she would bring along an expert - actually an undercover policeman - to determine their authenticity.

Leshem was arrested when the two arrived at his home, and two of the hanukkiot were found there.

Kimbe was detained later that night. The other three hanukkiot were found in his car, police said.

Leshem and Kimbe both deny any involvement in the theft of the hanukkiot. Yesterday, they were released on bail, and a court order banning publication of details of the case was lifted.

Bill would protect whistleblowers

LIAT COLLINS

COURTS will be able to demand that whistleblowers fired for warning of corruption in the workplace be returned to their jobs and compensated under a bill which was prepared for first reading in the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday. The bill is the joint proposal of committee chairman Yossi Katz and Haggai Merom (both Labor).

Katz said the intention is not to judge whether the worker was right, but to prevent a situation in which somebody who exposes corruption will be punished by the employer without being able to defend himself in court.

"Somebody who is not prepared to accept corruption is entitled to protection, and should not be exposed to the revenge of employers or supervisors."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police: Oberkovich should be charged
The police have recommended charges be filed against Hapoel chairman Yoram Oberkovich and former director-general Ya'acov Avimor for financial wrongdoings, police sources said. The charges are in part connected with the alleged use of Hapoel funds for the 1994 Hishtadrot campaign of Haim Haberfeld. *Bill Hutman*

Four cops injured in Mea She'arim riot
Four policemen were lightly injured during a riot that broke out yesterday after tax collectors converged on a store in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim section, police said. The tax collectors, armed with confiscation orders, were forced to flee by a hostile crowd of haredim who broke windows on vehicles and upset trash bins. No arrests were made. *Bill Hutman*

Kidnapped Jerusalem cabbie escapes
A Jerusalem taxi driver was kidnapped by three Arabs before dawn yesterday, but managed to break free after a fight, police said. A police spokesman said both nationalistic and criminal motives are being investigated. The driver picked up the Arabs in the Talpiot Industrial Zone just after midnight. They threatened him with a knife and ordered him to drive towards Ramallah. The Arabs tried to force him to avoid the army checkpoint at A-Ram but he managed to flee and run to the checkpoint for help, while his attackers fled in the taxi. *Bill Hutman*

ICCI publishes annual guide
The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel has published its annual *Guide to Interreligious and Intercultural Activities in Israel*. ICCI director Ron Kronish says the guide now includes 63 groups belonging to the association. *Haim Shapiro*

El Al passenger pulled off plane
An El Al passenger was arrested yesterday by British police at Stanstead Airport near London after refusing to leave the first-class section of a New York-bound flight, the airline spokesman Nachman Kliseman said. The passenger, identified only as a resident of Eilat, refused to accede to an attendant's request to leave the area, and the crew called the police. The plane was delayed for half an hour while the passenger's baggage was unloaded. *Haim Shapiro*

Two Thai workers found dead
Two Thai workers were found dead in their Ganei Yehuda apartment yesterday. They were discovered by their employer who came to take them to work. Police said that mushrooms found near the bodies suggested that had eaten poisonous fungi. *Itim*

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Applications are now being accepted from candidates whose academic training in one or more fields of the humanities and social sciences, law, natural sciences and technology, qualify them for work in the Foreign Service, where professional expertise in specific fields must be combined with general knowledge of a wide range of subjects.

Candidates must demonstrate intellectual curiosity and independence, ability to understand and analyze political and economic issues, a background in culture, command of languages, inter-personal skills, team-work abilities, initiative and executive abilities.

In order to find personnel who meet these qualifications, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission, has established careful screening procedures.

During the month of January, meetings will be held at the universities, in order to provide as much information as possible on the Foreign Service and the various training tracks. (For details, check university notice boards.)

The selection process is divided into stages, and will take about nine months from the date of publication of the tender. Candidates who meet the requirements will be invited to join the course.

Trainees who successfully complete the training will be posted to embassies and consulates abroad, or departments of the Ministry in Israel. Candidates must be prepared to accept any post in Israel or abroad, including those in countries in which living conditions are difficult.

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Post Description
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The Foreign Service is becoming continuously more specialized. Training will be offered in four fields: political/general, politico-economic, the Middle East and administration. Assignment to the specialized fields will be according to ability and the Ministry's needs. Candidates will also be given the opportunity to express their preferences before the beginning of the course.

During training, those accepted will participate in a basic course and an apprenticeship period in various departments of the Ministry in Israel and abroad. After two years, if the trainee meets the requirements, he will join Israel's Foreign Service. Grade: 35-38 on the academic (humanities) scale.

Conditions of Employment
a. During the training period, the trainee will be employed on a special contract, with a fixed salary.
b. All trainees will receive a standing loan, which will become a grant, after five years' continuous service.

Qualifications Required:
a. Full academic education - at least a Bachelor of Arts/Science degree (see Para. E below).
b. Familiarity with political problems, and other general subjects, including economics and Israel's economy, Judaism, the Middle East, history, geography, society and the state, international law, culture and art, administration, computers, analytical ability, negotiating ability, ability for communications work in writing and orally, perfect written and spoken Hebrew, a command of English, including fluent English. Knowledge of another language is most desirable: Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Hungarian, Czech, Polish, Turkish, or Georgian.
c. Age: Up to 33.
d. Medical and security checks.
e. Israeli citizenship, including spouse.
f. The selection process of the Civil Service Commission includes the candidates taking written examinations, and being examined at assessment centers and by examination boards. (Notice of the dates of these examinations will be sent to applicants.)

NOTES
A. Trainees who pass the acceptance examinations will, on conclusion of the two-year training period, join the Foreign Service. They must be prepared to accept any post in Israel or abroad, including posts in countries in which service conditions are difficult.
B. Accepted applicants who are tenured civil servants will, during the period of basic and specialized training, receive an acting appointment (with the agreement of their supervisor in the Ministry in which they are employed).
C. The Ministry reserves the right to decide in which course to place a trainee, in accordance with the needs of the Ministry.
D. The right is reserved to remove a trainee from the course or from specialized training if he is found unsuitable.
E. Persons who do not hold a degree, but who are studying for a Bachelor's degree to be awarded at the end of the 1996 academic year, are eligible to apply. Such a candidate must, when applying, submit confirmation that he is in the last year of a degree course. If accepted, acceptance will be provisional, until he submits confirmation of the award of his degree, and this no later than January 1997.
F. Applications are to be made on Form Madaf 2115, to which must be attached authenticated copies of the documents required, a curriculum vitae, and two photographs. The form may be submitted to any district office of the Civil Service Commission: Jerusalem - Hakirya, 3 Rehov Kapitan, P.O.B. 34076, Jerusalem 91340 Tel Aviv - Hakirya, 10 Rehov Kalman Magen, Tel Aviv 61070 Haifa - 11 Rehov Hassan Shukri, Haifa 33105 Beersheba - 136 Rehov Bechalutz, P.O.B. 10050, Beersheba

Form 2115 can be obtained from any of the above offices, and from local government council offices and post offices. A soldier may, if he wishes, submit an application in the form of an ordinary letter, in which case he should provide a brief statement, giving personal details and particulars of his education and experience.

G. In this notice, all references to the masculine include the feminine. Equal opportunity will be given to men and women with suitable qualifications in competition for any given position.

H. Candidates should ensure that their application is complete in all respects, with the required authenticated copies of documents and with any other document they wish to attach (with a faithful translation into Hebrew of documents in a foreign language). It should reach the Civil Service Commission as soon as possible, but in any case not later than the date given at the end of this notice, failing which they will not be considered.

I. A trainee who withdraws from the basic course or from specialized training before the end, on his own initiative, will return the standing loan and pay the course expenses for the period in which he participated.

J. During the course, trainees who live outside Jerusalem will be entitled to travel expenses or accommodation and, during the specialized training period in Israel, such trainees will receive travel expenses or assistance in paying rent, at a rate determined by the Civil Service Commission.

The course is expected to open at the end of 1996
Last date for submitting applications: February 18, 1996.

Hillary Clinton to answer senators' questions in writing

JOHN SOLOMON
WASHINGTON

HOPING to dispel doubts about her integrity, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton offered to answer senators in writing concerning several new questions in the Whitewater affair.

Chief among them is how Clinton's law firm billing records suddenly appeared inside the White House residence — two years after investigators subpoenaed them and the White House claimed they could not be found.

In a five-sentence letter yesterday to the Republican-led Senate Whitewater Committee, the first lady's private lawyer, David Kendall, noted Clinton has answered written question from the panel in the past.

"I invite you to proceed," Kendall wrote committee Chairman Alfonse D'Amato, who suggested the idea last week. "She is certainly willing to do so again in an effort to bring your inquiry to a conclusion."

The offer breaks an impasse that began last week when both the committee and first lady acknowledged that new evidence emerging in the Whitewater investigation warranted new answers from Clinton, but neither

side offered to go first.

Last Thursday, a long-time Clinton aide testified how the first lady's long-sought billing records abruptly showed up on a table in the White House third-floor living quarters in August.

The aide, Carolyn Huber, testified she believed someone had deliberately put the records there.

Huber moved them into a box without looking at them and re-discovered them this month, when the White House finally turned over the records to investigators.

Republicans charge the billing records contradict some of Clinton's earlier answers in the Whitewater affair, including that she did just minimal legal work for the failed Arkansas savings and loan owned by her Whitewater business partner.

The manner in which the records were found surprised even White House lawyers, who had claimed for months the records could not be found.

They turned up in a secure room frequented only by the president, Hillary Clinton and their closest friends. (AP)



A shop owner in historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, surveys the floods in front of his store, after the Potomac River rose eight feet beyond normal flood levels. Residents placed sand bags in an effort to stem the tide. (Reuters)

Eastern US mops up after flood misery

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Weary rescue workers mopped up yesterday after floods that swamped wide areas of the eastern United States leaving behind a tide of misery, sodden homes and a wave of political recrimination.

Thousands of residents who were forced to flee their homes in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland returned to flooded basements, ruined property and swamped streets.

Television footage showed an entire house in Wheeling, West Virginia, being swept down the swollen Ohio river.

In Washington, commuters faced traffic chaos as major roads near the Potomac River remained closed for a second day.

The city's National Airport remained open after fighting off a threat from flood tides over the weekend, but the main access road from downtown was closed.

In Georgetown and the historic Old Town Alexandria, property owners assessed damage

after the Potomac subsided from levels some two meters above normal.

"It looks like the worst is over. The river is subsiding now and we hope to get back to normal in the next couple of days," said city official John Crawford.

In Pennsylvania, Transportation Secretary Federico Peña and five Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials planned a fly-over inspection to assess state Governor Tom Ridge's claim that Washington was not doing enough to help.

FEMA officials said the floods killed 10 people in Pennsylvania, and more were still unaccounted for.

The federal agency recognized only the counties along the swollen Susquehanna River as disaster areas. Ridge wanted dozens of counties included.

"Those people in Washington need to get out from behind their desks... and tell that to people who lost their farms, homes and businesses all across this state," Ridge said on Sunday night.

A 30-member FEMA team will set up an office in Harrisburg to process claims.

But the White House yesterday said Ridge, a Republican, "ran his mouth" when he should have been documenting damage to speed assistance.

"We shouldn't be in some public relations contest, when there is the livelihood of citizens in Pennsylvania at stake and when the main thing is to promptly and effectively respond to the consequences of the flood," said White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry.

"He ran his mouth instead of getting the work done that would have led to the assistance," McCurry said.

The flood forced the evacuation of 1,000 residents in the state capital of Harrisburg, including the governor.

Japan cult member admits producing sarin gas

TOKYO (AP) — A senior member of a doomsday cult admitted in court yesterday that he produced sarin nerve gas, which prosecutors say the cult used to attack commuters on Tokyo subways last March 20.

Seichi Endo, 35, is considered a key witness for the prosecution in its attempt to prove that Aum Shinri Kyo cult leader Shoko Asahara directed all key phases of the subway attack.

Twelve people were killed and more than 5,500 got sick from the attack, the climax of a series of murders and kidnappings blamed on the cult.

According to prosecutors, Asahara directly gave orders for sarin production to only two people — cult science chief Hideo Murai, who was murdered last April, and Endo.

In yesterday's testimony, Endo did not discuss what kind of orders Asahara gave him. But he said it is "absolutely certain" that he and two other cult leaders, Tomomasa Nakagawa and Masumi Tsuchiya, produced sarin gas.

Endo, a former chief of Aum's "health and welfare unit," is accused of murder and attempted murder in connection with the sarin attack and other crimes.

"It is natural for victims and bereaved families to feel anger and hatred toward Aum Shinri Kyo," Endo told the Tokyo District Court according to his lawyer, Kenji Nozaki. "Nothing I say could ever excuse myself. I am sorry and I apologize."

Endo's cooperation is important for prosecutors because two others accused of sarin production, Nakagawa and Tsuchiya, have disputed some of the charges.

Moslems boycott religious classes in 40 UK schools

LONDON (AP) — More than 1,500 Moslem pupils in 40 schools in northern England have been ordered by parents to boycott religious education classes, and a Moslem leader says the move could spread.

The parents in the Kirkclee area of west Yorkshire, which has a large Asian immigrant population, say the syllabus in the classes is too orientated toward Christianity.

Religious education is an established part of the curriculum in Britain's state sector education system. It aims to give students factual historical details about leading world religions. By law, it must feature Christianity but each local education authority must take account of other religions.

Parents have the right to withdraw children from religious education classes, but the size of the

boycott in Kirkclee, which began three weeks ago, has worried education authorities.

The Moslem students involved in the boycott are still attending the rest of the classes in the school curriculum.

Jahangir Mohammed, deputy leader of a group called the Moslem Parliament which represents Moslems but has no legislative power, warned on Sunday that the boycott would spread unless the government acts.

Another group, the Association of Moslem Schools, said discontent among Moslem parents with religious education classes in schools is widespread. The group's development officer, Ibrahim Hewitt, told BBC radio: "Moslem children in state schools have had a problem for a long time on religious education, not just in Kirkclee, all over the country."

2 missing boys spend night in toy store

GATINEAU, Quebec (AP) — More than 150 volunteers who searched all night for two young brothers should have started in the logical place — Toys-R-Us.

Antonio Cerezo, 8, and his brother Jerome, 6, were found safe and sound when manager Michel Legault opened the store yesterday morning, police Sgt. Richard Longpre said.

"I guess it's every kid's dream to be locked up in a toy store overnight, and they realized their dream," Legault said. "They played cops and robbers, rode bikes and played ball."

When the novelty wore off, Legault said, the boys apparently broke a small window in an attempt to get out.

"At the end there, [the boys] were very worried because it's been a long night and they haven't slept very much," Longpre said.

They went to the store by themselves Sunday afternoon and were accidentally locked in.

Antonio said they fell asleep in a playhouse and when they woke up there was nothing to do but play and eat chocolate Easter eggs.

Their mother, Linda, doesn't plan any discipline. "No, no. We're buying pizza because they didn't eat all night."

New York's 5th Ave. is world's most expensive

NEW YORK (Reuters) — New York's Fifth Avenue ranked as the world's most expensive street for the second year in a survey of retail rents.

On Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street, which houses Tiffany and Co. and Trump Tower, the annual rents are \$500 per square foot, according to the eighth annual survey by the Hirschfeld Group real estate consultants.

New York's 57th Street, which the borders that area and is home to the Warner Brothers Studio store, moved into second place this year with rents of \$440 per square foot, knocking down Tokyo's The Ginza to third place with rents of \$350 per square foot.

Rents have fallen in many areas since the real estate boom led to the all-time high price of \$675 for the Ginza in 1990, Michael Hirschfeld said.

The top three streets have been trading rankings for years and will probably continue to do so without any serious challengers, he said.

The character of many of the world's most expensive streets is

'NY Times' begins electronic version

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times became available yesterday on the World Wide Web with most of the news and feature articles and classified advertising that appear in the printed editions.

The electronic version also contains reporting that does not appear in print, the Times said. "Our site is designed to take full advantage of the evolving capabilities offered by the Internet," said Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr.

The electronic paper will generate advertising revenue and, for now, no fee will be charged for basic access in the United States, said Martin Nisenholtz, president of The New York Times Electronic Media Co., a Times subsidiary.

But computer users who want access must subscribe, and will be charged fees for copying articles from Times archives dating back 15 years and for a clipping service, based on key words, that sends articles to an individual user's electronic mailbox.

The paper said readers who connect to the electronic paper from outside the United States will be offered a 30-day trial without charge, but will eventually face a subscription fee.

The New York Times On The Web is at <http://www.nytimes.com>.

Irish pub owner warbles way into Guinness book

LOUDONVILLE, New York (AP) — Pub owner Eamonn McGirr can look forward to some sleep after warbling his way back into the Guinness Book of Records by singing continuously for 11 consecutive days.

McGirr, 55, broke the record Sunday night during a live broadcast of television program lasting several days to raise money for cerebral palsy. He sang the final notes of the Irish tune, "Till Tell Me Ma," then was showered with cheers and green balloons.

"It's a hell of a wonderful feeling," said McGirr, who last set the record 17 years ago when it stood at 5 1/2 days. A man in India later broke the record, singing continuously for 10 days and 22 hours.

McGirr's latest attempt began January 10, and the rules stipulated that he could hum or sing anything, even read the newspaper

1 in 4 Russians earns a million... rubles

MOSCOW (AP) — Nearly one-quarter of Russians now make more than a million rubles, that is, Per month.

The sum — which equals a little more than \$200 — sounds mind-boggling when compared to just five years ago, when several hundred rubles a month was a good salary. But it remains modest in Russia, where prices for many goods and services have risen sharply.

Another quarter of the population earned less over the course of 1995 than the subsistence wage, according to Russia's State Statistics Committee. In figures carried yesterday by the Interfax news agency, the committee put the subsistence wage at 327,000 rubles — a little more than \$75 at current exchange rates.

The committee said its figures indicate that incomes for low- and middle-income Russians are stabilizing.

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Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

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Japan cult member admits producing sarin gas



A close-up of a US Government surveillance photograph shows one of several alleged mass graves in Nova Kasaba, Bosnia, said to contain the bodies of thousands killed by the Bosnian Serbs.

Prosecutor meets Bosnians on war dead

SARAJEVO (AP) - The international war-crimes tribunal's top prosecutor met yesterday with Bosnian leaders and NATO commanders to discuss the fate of thousands of Muslims missing and feared dead.

Serb forces. Shattuck said he told Milosevic yesterday "that what I had seen clearly corroborated with the eyewitness testimony of the survivors on mass executions. And that clearly to me indicates that evidence that has been compiled so far is very clear of mass executions in the area," Shattuck said.

"I also discussed... the urgency of releasing all prisoners of war immediately, unilaterally," Shattuck said in Belgrade before flying back to Sarajevo.

Chechen rebels: We will trade hostages for bodies

CHECHEN rebels still holding dozens of hostages from a January 9 raid won't free most of them as planned unless the bodies of their fellow militants are returned, news reports said yesterday.

MAXIM KORZHOV. GROZNY, Russia. But he said federal authorities were still identifying the bodies and the issue would have to be discussed with them.

bel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. The rebels proposed exchanging the workers for about 30 guerrillas captured by the Russians during the fighting in Pervomayskaya, Interfax said, quoting officials of the Moscow-backed Chechen government and the power company.

Iran, Armenia, Turkmenistan sign pact

TEHRAN (AP) - Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia have signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the banking, trade and transport fields, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported late Sunday.

Jordan slashes trade with Iraq almost in half

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan has decided to slash its exports to Iraq this year by nearly half, citing high debts to the kingdom by the beleaguered Baghdad government, officials said yesterday.

Ragheb set the new volume at talks in Amman last week to renew the annual trade protocol, a document that is never made public.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nine killed in Pakistan shootout
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - At least 10 gunmen opened fire on a police van transporting murder suspects to court in central Pakistan yesterday, leaving nine people dead, including three police officers.

Three killed in Bulgaria bomb explosion
SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) - Three people were killed and two seriously injured when a bomb exploded outside a downtown pizzeria, police said yesterday.

US court rules against Christian Scientists
WASHINGTON (AP) - Four Christian Scientists lost a Supreme Court appeal of a \$1.5 million award they were ordered to pay over the death of a boy whose diabetes was treated with prayer instead of medical care.

Report: Yeltsin will run for second term
MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin said yesterday that he probably plans to run for a second term in elections in June, a news agency said. It was the strongest indication yet the 64-year-old leader would seek reelection.

Rwandan refugees flee to Tanzania; army burns camp

NAIROBI (AP) - About 16,000 Rwandan refugees were stranded yesterday near Burundi's border with Tanzania, unable to cross the closed frontier and reluctant to return to their burned out camp.

during the flight from Ntamba camp late Saturday and early Sunday, or when the army set fire to the camp on Sunday.

Burundian troops torched the huts Sunday of the few hundred Rwandan refugees who remained at Ntamba camp in northern Burundi, said Hitoshi Misa, the Burundi country director for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Tanzania, which already has about 500,000 Rwandan refugees, has closed its border to refugees in Burundi.

"Probably the message is that these refugees should go back to their home country," Misa said in a telephone interview from Bujumbura, the Burundian capital.

Misa said none of the refugees had been injured or killed either

Sri Lanka military helicopter with 32 aboard feared shot down by rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - An air force helicopter with 32 people aboard disappeared while flying over northern Sri Lanka yesterday, and Tamil rebels may have shot it down, an official said.

In another development yesterday, government troops repulsed a rebel attack on a Sinhalese village in northeastern Sri Lanka, but at least 22 people were killed in the fighting. More than 100 Tamil separatists launched the attack shortly after midnight in the Amurathapura district, Maj. Tikak Dumarwila, a military spokesman, said in Colombo, the capital.

Military planes began searching rebel-held areas where the Ukrainian-built Mi-17 was flying after it was reported missing around noon, the military official said on condition of anonymity.

The helicopter was flying 60 kilometers from Palali air force base to Vettikilmei army base with 27 soldiers, two sailors and a three-man crew on board.

No radio message was received from the crew during the flight before the aircraft disappeared, the official said.

Tamil separatists have been fighting for 12 years for a minority homeland. Guerrillas began using surface-to-air missiles last year to down warplanes.

US National Book Critics Circle nominations announced

NEW YORK (AP) - A study of poet Walt Whitman's life and Richard Ford's novel about a former sportswriter were among 25 titles nominated for 1995 US National Book Critics Circle awards.

Other nominees are: **FICTION** • Mrs. Ted Bliss, Stanley Elkin (Hyperion). • Galatea 2.2, Richard Powers (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). • Moo, Jane Smiley (Knopf). • The Tent of Orange Mist, Paul West (Scabner).

• A Civil Action, Jonathan Harr (Random House). • Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder, Lawrence Weschler (Pantheon). **CRITICISM:** • The All-American Skin Game, or, The Decoy of Race: The Long and the Short of It, 1990-1994, Stanley Crouch (Pantheon). • The Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France, Robert Darnton (W.W. Norton). • The Castle of Indolence: On Poetry, Poets and Poetasters, Thomas M. Disch (Picador). • Paul Celan: Poet, Survivor, Jew, John Felstiner (Yale University Press). • After the Fact, Clifford Geertz (Harvard University Press).

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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT
PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI COOPERATION PROGRAM
Project Description: The embassy of the United States of America in Jerusalem and the Consulate General of the United States in Jerusalem announce the Palestinian-Israeli Cooperation Program (PICP), a small grants program designed to provide seed money for significant projects featuring nongovernmental and private institutional cooperation among Palestinians and Israelis.

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Meshulam madness

FEW phenomena have so puzzled Israelis as the saga of Uzi Meshulam and his fanatic followers. The group is known to be extremely dangerous. Its members have used firearms against the police and provoked the killing of one of his disciples. They have violently resisted arrest, threatened the life of Minister of Internal Security Moshe Shahal, preached hatred for the government, and – most recently – taught kindergarten children to sing about hanging government ministers.

To convey the extent of the danger they pose, yesterday the police leaked to the Hebrew daily *Yedioth Aharonot* that Meshulam has heavily armed, well-trained militia units at his command on both sides of the Green Line. They include, according to police, extremists who would not hesitate to fight against the army if the final status agreement with the Palestinians entails the evacuation of Jewish communities. Even more ominously, there are allegedly militias in Petah Tikva and Rishon LeZion under Meshulam's command, and a bodyguard unit in Yehud, the site of the group's headquarters.

If it all sounds like a cross between the fascist American militias and a mad cult, say the police, it is because this is precisely what it is. Meshulam's hold over his followers is as powerful as that of cult leaders who have led their disciples to suicide, and his followers' dedication to his cause is as blindly irrational as that of David Koresh's disciples, who perished in the notorious confrontation with the FBI.

If all this is true, the phenomenon is a first in the country's history. The genesis of the group is traced to the alleged refusal of the establish-

ment to address the Yemenite community's demand for a thorough investigation of the disappearance of Yemenite children in the 1950s. Meshulam claims that the various commissions appointed to probe charges of kidnappings and illegal adoptions have whitewashed a criminal conspiracy.

Clearly, the group could not have enjoyed the support and sympathy of a significant segment of the Yemenite community had its demands not echoed what many believe. The feeling that they suffered horrendous indignities and injustices when they arrived in this country is so pervasive among Yemenites, and their lingering bitterness against the establishment so palpable, that Meshulam's seeds of paranoia have fallen on fertile ground.

The police may be exaggerating the dimensions of Meshulam's power. Stories of heavily armed cultist militias, like tales of the tentacular Russian mafia, may be designed to draw fat budgets and prepare alibis for possible failures. Nor does it make sense to portray the Meshulam group as monstrous, merciless killers while granting them special privileges in prison.

But it would also be a mistake to underestimate the danger inherent in a community that has nursed injustices – many of them all too real – for four decades. Yesterday's cabinet decision to clamp down on the Meshulam group may be eminently justified. But it should be accompanied by an assurance that the present investigation of the children's disappearances in the 1950s leaves no stone unturned, as well as a special effort to reach out to the Yemenite community with a message of justice and hope.

Information super-roadblock

CHINA'S incomprehensible decision to gag the foreign media that provides the world's opinion-makers and markets with reliable information about the country's development demonstrates the mentality of a child who demands free toys every day, but refuses to tidy a room to accommodate them. The bureaucratic blockheads who run this unfortunate Asian giant still fail to grasp that being a little bit free-market is as impossible as being a little bit pregnant.

Analysts have long wondered how China – nominally a "communist paradise" but in reality a developing economic powerhouse – would cope with the inherent conflict between free-market economics and Maoist political dictatorship. Now we know – the answer is, it will attempt to shoot itself in both feet. China aroused interest for trying a different path than Russia in ending the stagnation and poverty caused by the failed marriage of fake economic planning and political repression. While Russia is now a lively political democracy, it is an economic shambles. China chose to develop its economy first and the world assumed that a loosening of the political harness would follow. Presumably, wealthy and modernized Chinese citizens would eventually vote for the leadership that brought the country prosperity, marrying economic success to a democratic future.

Following Beijing's earlier nonsensical decision to try to control the Chinese sector of the uncontrollable world Internet, it perpetrated an even greater idiosyncrasy by decreeing that foreign news agencies must submit to regulation by the government-run Xinhua news agency. It announced severe punishment for vendors of information whose output "slanders or jeopardizes the national interests of China." In effect, the government is seeking to reduce the factual economic information produced by the minute and around the clock by such major companies as Reuters and The Associated Press. Reuters in-

particular is the most essential supplier of high-quality economic news to the world's stock, commodities, and financial markets.

To decree that such vital information should be filtered through Marxist and public-relations spin doctors before being administered to buyers is ludicrous beyond belief. Do the Chinese really expect the sharp and aggressive professionals of the economic news agencies to run glowing, even faked, reports of economic developments, which will read like the Five Year Plan reports of bygone Soviet factory managers? While Beijing's secretive rulers may still believe that democracy is a luxury they cannot yet afford, they surely cannot have failed to apprehend that accurate information is as expensive a commodity as gold or platinum in the market place.

China's own voracious appetite for goods and services, as well as for investment and export markets, is itself a major economic story that is affecting the essential investment planning, commodities, and stock markets across the globe. Absolute disclosure of information concerning these sectors is not just desirable – it is crucial. No multinational CEO is going to consider including China in his company's plans without the most detailed, up-to-date intelligence from the news agencies' reporters.

To think that Xinhua can provide what the world business community needs is a bigger joke than to suggest its reports are an adequate basis for political decisions made in the world's foreign ministries. Xinhua is a tame puddle of the Communist Party, its journalists are as respected as those of the old *Izvestia*, and its news is as carefully crafted as that of the Soviet *Pravda*, which was usually typeset three days in advance. "Information wants to be free," says a motto of the pioneering Internet computer hackers. China can no more gag the information superhighway than it can forever silence its own people, who also want to be free.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Sir, – In his article of January 12, "Why Ora can't sleep," Yosef Goell seems to have confused his terms. He defines "egalitarian distribution of income" and "a fair society" to be one and the same. Egalitarian distribution of income is an archaic, socialist goal where income is stripped from producers and given to non-producers after making sure that wealthy politicians get their share. This is the way of subsidies, hand-outs, high taxes, public-sector encroachment and slow or negative growth. Fairness means that everybody earns according to his own ability. Nobody has the right to confiscate

fairly-earned income. Since the Israeli government has reluctantly moved away from egalitarianism and toward fairness, we all have witnessed and felt staggering economic growth. Even Goell admits that "today's Israeli poor are significantly better off than they were in the past." I fail to see the problem with that fact. The best thing the government can do is to continue to take itself out of the income redistribution game, free up more sectors of the economy and let the talents and ingenuity of the Israeli citizenry do the rest. Ra'amana. **CHAIM FORST**

A VERY NEGATIVE IMAGE

Sir, – The law of Israel forbids the publication of the name and other identifying details (such as the picture) of the head of the GSS. Whatever the reasons for this may be, and I, like many others, am not convinced they are valid, it should be upheld by the media until otherwise legislated. I was therefore astonished to see the IBA broadcast an interview with the said Mr. "K" in which they chose to obscure his image by converting it to a negative, which indicated either utter foolishness, or total contempt for this law. I did not need to wait until some Palestinian newspaper would take the simple steps needed to convert this to a positive, as my home video equipment allowed me to do this immediately. I would urge the IBA, which sometimes has need to guard the privacy of interviewees, to choose a more effective method, such as the coarse pixel technique. Otherwise, I would warn anyone who does not wish to be publicly identified to keep away from TV cameras. **JEREMY TOPAZ**

BATTERED WIFE
Sir, – The pomposity of your correspondent Thelma Jacobson (Letters of January 15, "Murder is murder") is beyond belief as is her linkage of Carmela Butbut with Rabin assassin Yigal Amir. I feel this lady has suffered enough and will indeed be hammed all her life by events, but she has paid the price for her action and does not need the pompous Thelma to add to her pain. As one who undoubtedly has more experience in such matters, I

spent my childhood with a battered wife, my mother, and know the stress, the pain – physical pain she suffered – suffering that stayed with her to the end of her life. No, Madam, your comments are ill-timed and ill-conceived and I suggest you think long and hard before making similar comments in the future. There but for the grace of God go you and many others. **KENNETH BERG**
Netanya.

Rehovot.



A world in a single life

HARVEY MEIROVICH

IN its vigorous opposition to territorial concessions, the "religious right" contends that the life of the nation incorporates a territorial dimension ultimately worth the sacrifice of one's life. In other words, the individual is absolutely subordinate to the unfolding destiny of the Jewish state.

There is no denying a collective thrust to Jewish philosophy. The Jewish psyche grants considerable weight to fulfilling the needs of the many against those of the individual. Much of the language of Jewish worship is couched in the plural to stress the centrality of community cohesion and the responsibility of Jews for each another.

One thing is tragically missing, however, from the presentation by the religious right: healthy respect for a balanced Judaism.

Judaism also passionately respects the inviolate rights of the individual. The warp and woof of Jewish theology has been shaped by a bipolar grasp of the complexities of life. The eternal contemporaneity of Jewish civilization lies in the hallowed respect of its great teachers in juggling polar opposites with finesse. It is thus half-baked truth and travesty to speak solely of a one-dimensional Judaism.

The bipolar values of communal loyalty and individual integrity mirror the clash of authentic yet conflicting points of view. There need be no attempt to whitewash these tensions. There ought to be a deep recognition that dynamic tension constitutes the stuff of real life, and that "both claims constitute the words of the living God."

It is high time for the life-giving rabbinic dictum "Whoever sustains one life is as though he sustained an entire world" to be restored to the arena of debate. The allusion is to future unborn generations who will be privileged to see

and exemplify a polarity which lies at the heart of Judaism. My rift with the expositors of the religious right runs much deeper. Their extensive knowledge of rabbinic sources is lamentably unmatched by their competence in Bible studies and Jewish history.

This invariably leads to historical distortions. For example, in calling for patriotism and adherence to the Jewish past, they raise high the banner of taking possession of "the whole land of Israel." Yet the concept is mentioned nowhere in the Bible or in classical rabbinic sources.

A generation ago the great Bible scholar Yehezkel Kaufmann demonstrated convincingly in *The Biblical Account of the Conquest of Palestine* that there were actually five different conceptions of the borders of the Land of Israel corresponding to changes in the historical situation.

Though the Patriarchs were promised utopian borders, these were never realized. Instead, Israel's borders continuously fluctuated under the leaderships of Moses, Joshua and David, resting in the final analysis on the factor only: realpolitik.

From its earliest days the Zionist enterprise internalized the tough lesson of realpolitik. Historically, territorial compromise captured the platform, time and again, because Zionist dreamers (like their biblical ancestors) agreed to negotiate for what was possible in an imperfect, cruel and usually cynical world.

The current peace process, born out of such pragmatism, shows every sign of conforming to the political precedents of the past.

The writer is a Masorti rabbi and Jewish historian who teaches at the Rothberg School for Overseas Students at the Hebrew University.

The 'religious right' imparts a lamentably one-dimensional Judaism

Although a segment of Israeli society believes that more Jewish lives will be saved by holding onto land now being ceded to the Palestinian Authority, it is unquestionably the right of the Labor-led government to believe that the threat of war will be substantially decreased through territorial compromise.

Hence, contrary to the tendentious reading of our classical sources by rabbis and educators associated with the religious right, placing human life above ideological calls for more extensive real estate cannot be construed as an act of treason.

IT IS disheartening that the primary expositors of the religious right are rabbis who call themselves educators, but choose to teach a blatantly one-sided portrait of Judaism.

They would be wise to internalize the all-encompassing grasp of Jewish theology as taught by Abraham Joshua Heschel: "As in a magnet, the ends of which have opposite magnetic qualities, these terms are opposite to one another

the light of day. Likewise, we can no longer ignore the sacred principle of *pikuah nefesh*, concern for a human life in distress. By unanimous consent, observance of this commandment overrides all but the three cardinal commandments to refrain from murder, dishonesty and idolatry."

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Global warming bogeyman

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

I have a theory about the earthquakes, mudslides, brush fires and floods that have lately devastated California. These afflictions will not stop until the Menendez brothers have been put away for good.

Now, I know my theory is somewhat antique, indeed fundamentalist. No more, however, than the theory being peddled in the elite US media about the higher meaning of the savage snowstorm that hit the American Northeast. "Blame global warming for the blizzard," declared *The New York Times*. A *Newsweek* cover story upped the ante: "Blizzards, Floods & Hurricanes: Blame Global Warming?" Huh?

We've been lectured incessantly on how prideful man is spewing tons of fossil fuel carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, causing global warming. We've been told further that this desecration of nature will ultimately wipe out winter, turn Kansas to desert and put Long Island under water.

Now comes the exact opposite climatic event – a monster snowstorm and that, too, is caused by our sinning against Gaea?

Yes, holds the newest variation in environmental scolding, global warming is now the cause not just of warming, but of all weather "extremes," i.e., calamities. How? Warming increases water evaporation, adding moisture and energy to the atmosphere, making for more rain and storms – and "more severe droughts" as well.

Huh? Exact opposites again? Yes, writes the *Times*'s William Stevens: "in cases where atmospheric circulation conspires to keep rain away from a given area."

getting enough cold air from southeastern Canada into a storm. Yet all projections for an enhanced greenhouse effect reduce the depth of cold air. So blaming the blizzard on the greenhouse effect is 100 percent wrong."

But theology is rarely dented by fact. One commentator lists not just the snowstorm of '96, but last year's heat waves, the flood of '93, and Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki as recent natural disasters that were perhaps "not wholly" natural. Among the "more intense weather events" claimed to conform to greenhouse theory is last year's flooding in Texas "with hailstones the size of baseballs."

First Sodom, now Texas.

Look, I believe that when six billion humans pump tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, it may affect climate. There are countervailing theories that say not. One study points out that greenhouse theory takes very poor account of cloud formation and water vapor distribution, and notes that increases in cloud cover from carbon dioxide emissions could wipe out any temperature rise. Nonetheless, it seems to me the better part of prudence to try to cut down on fossil fuel emissions that just might cause serious climatic change down the road.

Which is why the global warming people should be strongly supporting climatically benign nuclear power. They don't, of course, because it offends another part of their environmental theology.

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in fact, the historical record directly contradicts the theology. Harvard astrophysicist Sallie Khatun points out that in Northern Europe over the last 1,000 years, the increased devastation and occurrences of storms is closely linked to cooler rather than warmer temperatures. Sublimic conditions prevailed during the 10th-12th centuries (roughly 1 degree warmer than now). In the 13th century, when a cooling began that lasted centuries, storms and sea flooding in the area around the North Sea increased dramatically in severity and frequency.

BUT WHAT about that huge mid-Atlantic blizzard that served as journalistic hook for the current global warming hysteria? Isn't it a symptom of the greenhouse calamity effect?

"Utter nonsense," says Patrick Michaels, a professor of environmental sciences and author of more than 200 articles on global climatic change. "Any suggestion that ocean warming caused the blizzard of '96 makes no sense. Sea surface temperature over the Western Atlantic has changed very little in the recent decade, except for a profound cooling of the northwest portion."

Moreover, explains Michaels: "The snow with generating mid-Atlantic snow is, in any case, not a lack of moisture. The problem is

Nukes & nerves

GWYNNE DYER

THE first session of the conference that is supposed to lead to a total ban on nuclear tests opened in Geneva yesterday, and the signs are looking good. Mainly because of the Indian nuclear test that now likely won't happen. But it seems to have been a near thing.

India tested a nuclear weapon back in 1974. But it mouthed a pious formula about the bomb being a "peaceful nuclear explosive," and every one went along with the hypocrisy except Pakistan, which immediately started to develop its own (as yet untested) nuclear weapons.

Why did everyone go along with the Indian lie back in 1974? Constructive hypocrisy.

The five nuclear powers, China, the US, France, Britain and Russia, had signed a nonproliferation treaty (NPT) to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. Yet here they were spreading to India, and who knows where next.

Hurrah for India's Central Bureau of Investigation

To acknowledge what India had done would have been to admit the NPT had failed – and its ability to stop other countries from taking the same road depended on the myth of universality. So there was a kind of deal: We'll pretend India hasn't tested a nuclear weapon, and India won't do it again.

It hasn't, either, not for over 20 years, and the myth of the NPT worked. Pakistan developed nuclear weapons to counterbalance India's, but it never tested one. Indeed, no new nuclear power has publicly tested a weapon since 1974 – though if India tested again, so would Pakistan.

So far, so good. Recently, however, American satellites began picking up new activity at India's Pokhran test-site.

After diplomatic feelers failed to elicit an explanation, Washington went public three weeks ago, warning that India was preparing a second nuclear test and threatening sanctions if it did.

India flatly denied it was planning a test, and Indian newspapers were filled with the usual bluster about foreign plots. But it is hard to believe that Washington invented the whole story just to annoy the Indians.

THE TOTAL test ban being negotiated in Geneva is perhaps the most important arms limitation measure of the century.

It is a miracle that all five nuclear powers are ready for it at the same time, but internal political changes in either Russia or China might break the consensus by year's end. If they had to bring India and Pakistan into the negotiations as well, they would probably run out of time.

So why has India backed off? Not because of US threats; Indian national pride would forbid that. It is because Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has found another way to win the election.

Rao's Congress (I) Party was facing probable defeat in the imminent parliamentary election. The rival that posed the biggest threat was the Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party.

The BJP's stock in trade is xenophobic nationalism and Hindu chauvinism, so Rao's first line of defense was simple: Stage another nuclear test, and steal the nationalist vote bank.

But then India's Central Bureau of Investigation got everyone off the hook.

In the past week, the CBI has charged a number of senior politicians for taking bribes from a well-known businessman whose coded diaries detailing \$21 million in pay-offs were confiscated in 1991.

The accused include three of Rao's own cabinet ministers – but more important, the CBI also named BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani, who was all set to fight the campaign against Rao on an anti-corruption platform.

The CBI's action has transformed the Indian political scene, giving Rao a good chance of winning the election fair and square.

And if public opinion is running in your favor already, staging a nuclear test would only sow dissension in the ranks of your own followers – so cancel the test.

That appears to be what has happened. It's not pretty, but it works. Long live India's Central Bureau of Investigation.

The writer is a London-based historian and journalist.

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Globe awards leave Oscar in the dark

The English period film *Sense and Sensibility*, starring Emma Thompson, proved the only real winner in last Sunday's Golden Globe Awards, leaving the field open for the coveted Oscars, which will be presented in March.

The Golden Globes, awarded by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, have in previous years been widely seen as an accurate forecast of who will take away the cherished Academy Awards, but Sunday night's results left Hollywood in a guessing mood.

Sense and Sensibility took two of the top awards. Thompson was honored for best screenplay — she both wrote the script and starred in the film — and it won best dramatic picture for producer Lindsay Doran. The film had been nominated for six Golden Globes, more than any other production.

Thompson, a two-time Oscar

winner for her acting, lost out in the stakes for best actress, but said she considered the writing award more important. "It is horribly gratifying. I'm bloated with pride," she said backstage after receiving the award.

But for other films the night's results proved to be a mixed bag. Best director went to Mel Gibson for the medieval drama *Braveheart*, although he was not even nominated for his starring role in the film.

The best actor accolade went to Nicolas Cage for his part in the dark drama of alcoholism, *Leaving Las Vegas*, a low-budget movie released in select art theaters which has generated a cult following.

His co-star, Elizabeth Shue, while nominated, failed to receive the award for best dramatic actress. That went instead to Sharon Stone for her part in director Martin Scorsese's *Casino*.

"It's a miracle," Stone said of her accolade, praising Scorsese and her co-star, Robert De Niro.

Unlike the Academy Awards, the Golden Globes are split into two categories: drama, and music or comedy. In the latter category the best film award went to *Babe*, which beat out such critically acclaimed movies such as *The American President* and *Get Shorty*.

But John Travolta, star of *Get Shorty*, took away the Golden Globe as best actor in a musical or comedy film, fending him off for a possible Oscar.

Other winners on Sunday included Nicole Kidman as best actress in a musical or comedy for *To Die For*, Mira Sorvino as best supporting actress in the low-budget but highly acclaimed film *Mighty Aphrodite*, and Brad Pitt as best supporting actor in *Twelve Monkeys*.

The Hollywood Foreign Press



Emma Thompson won her screenplay adaptation of 'Sense and Sensibility.'

Pregnant mezzo is set to sing a duet for one

You've heard the expression "eating for two," but what of "singing for two?"

Canadian mezzo-soprano Fides Krucker will be seven months pregnant with her second child when she appears tomorrow with the Israel Chamber Orchestra.

"The baby gives me a kind of a balance from the inside. He or she is very quiet when I sing but becomes active once I stop. I wonder if it will recognize this kind of music when it grows up."

Krucker didn't know she would be pregnant when she signed a contract to appear with the ICO. Still, she's happy to be here.

"It was really very last-minute. A couple of weeks from now on board," she noted in her Tel Aviv hotel on Sunday evening.

Krucker is more familiar with the rural part of Israel. She has appeared twice at the Kfar Blum Chamber Music Festival, the last

time being six years ago.

At the concert in Jaffa's Noga Theater, Krucker will repeat one of her Kfar Blum successes, the folk songs of Italian composer Luciano Berio.

"It was great coming into rehearsal this morning and realizing that about a third of the musicians had performed this piece with me already in Kfar Blum. It was as if I was returning home in a sense, it was much less frightening."

The ICO performed this piece several decades ago with the composer himself on the podium and his late wife, Cathy Barberian as soloist. "Cathy is one of my heroes, I really adore what she did with her voice."

Krucker will also perform Canadian composer's Murray Schafer's *Requiem for the Party Girl*.

"The initial idea was to do Schafer's *Arcana* but the conductor, Steven Stein, thought that it would be politically incorrect as the orchestra members are asked to pronounce some texts written in hieroglyphic. He didn't feel comfortable with it and I didn't mind doing *Requiem*."

Requiem is comprised of 10 arias that tell the story of a woman "who commits suicide. It is about loss of direction ... that splitting of the personality after which you have no place to go on to."

She admits that she's not wild about the work. "It goes back to a long tradition that started with Donizetti and Bellini of what male composers do with women and how they perceive us. It's too simple to say that she is mad, that's the easy way out. There is much more to this isolated woman."

The presentation will also feature a video directed by Krucker's husband, composer/director Tom Sokolosky, who has traveled here with her.

Portuguese music is put on the map

NEW RELEASES
TIRZAH AGASSI

Even before the script to his latest film was written, Wim Wenders had decided on the sound track.

After hearing recordings of the Portuguese band Madredeus, with vocalist Teresa Salgueiro, the German director knew he had to include them in *Lisbon Story*.

And when he finally met the band live, the experience was so powerful Wenders recreated the encounter for the film.

The gorgeously lit scene — from a rehearsal of "Malagueira," the second song from the sound-track album *Ainda* (NMC) — should give the audience the kind of goose bumps it first gave the filmmaker.

Audiences will undoubtedly rush out to buy *Ainda* with its blend of Spanish guitar, bass, warm cello, evocative accordion and hauntingly pure Portuguese vocals. But does the audio hit as hard without the visual?

The question is complicated by the fact that *Lisbon Story*'s hero is a sound technician, and the film insists that the audience listen to the city. Does the music leap out at one at home the same way it does in the movie theater, where auditory awareness is heightened by the sounds of pigeons flying and trams turning street corners?

This listener's answer is "no." Listening to the album several times before seeing the film, I found it nice, but a tad pale, melodically weak background music. But that same music was entrancing when it accompanied the movie and was fueled by a powerful sound system.

This dichotomy was particularly interesting as I was moved by an unseen Salgueiro on two tracks of the diverse and "ear-opening" collection *Voices From the World* (NMC). The first cut is Madredeus's "O Pastor," from their 1990 album *Existir*. The second is "Ave Mundi" from the album of the same name by the classical Vox Ensemble and Rodrigo Leao, the bass playing co-founder of Madredeus, who left the group after the completion of *Lisbon Story*.

Those two tracks were a wake-up call that caused me, like the thousands of Europeans who are tuning into this musical millenium, to ask: What is going on in Portugal? This is precisely the effect that Madredeus hoped for when they (according to the wonderfully idiosyncratic English of their PR sheet) set out to "reignite the liking and the interest in the singing of Portuguese music."

Ave Mundi has stronger



Teresa Salgueiro's voice seduced German director Wim Wenders, who featured her in his new film, 'Lisbon Story.'

melodies than does *Ainda*. Its rich orchestration includes violins, flute, English horn, and an occasional programmed beat, as well as the instruments used in the

soundtrack.

When Salgueiro joins in, the combination sets off her voice as masterfully as does Wenders's cinematography. Even though the

style is basically "classical crossover" and the text is in Latin, the delicate music has an optimism that seems to fit the good-natured Portuguese spirit por-

trayed in the film: As with the work of Madredeus, whose name means mother of God, the album's purpose is to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

Friel puts a stinger in the tale

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME

By Brian Friel. Direction and translation, Ido Ricklin. Set, Moshe Yostov. Costumes, Michael Lucc. Music, Effi Shoshani. Lighting, Judy Kizman. Hebrew title, *Philadelphia Ani Ba!* At the Bnei Shimon Municipal Theater.

Madge _____ Elisheva Michaeli
Gar 1 _____ Nati Ravitz
Gar 2 _____ Ilor Ashkenazi
Sara _____ Alex Feleg
Kate _____ Adi Karkavka

At the outset, Brian Friel's latest play fulfills the expectations commonly held of serious straightforward theater, conveying a comforting and wholesome sense of good old-fashioned drama. Suddenly, however, the treatment has an unexpected twist. It is this twist which turns *Philadelphia* into a novel and riveting stage experience.

His plays, though their topics range from mystic Gaelic yearning to present-day political mayhem, all basically deal with the drudgery and despondence of rural Ireland. Here too, Ireland is the background in a village boy's bid to escape to the promised land. The pathos and nostalgia of the exile-to-be is poignantly delineated. (The parallel to herds of Israelis similarly torn cannot be missed.)

If the milieu is similar to *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Habimah, 1994), here the literary device introduced to drive development works unequivocally. The personality split and sense of alienation introduced in Gar by his imminent separation from home and hearth and the abandoning of the deepest part of his being is wonderfully dramatized in a double role of the outer and the inner man. The public Gar and the private Gar are played with great sensitivity and passion by two fine young actors.

Ido Ricklin handles the Irish ethos with the same empathy as he did in *Lughnasa*. Short of Dublin's *Abbey* or *Gate*, I can think of no production achieving stronger ethnic authenticity. The sour silences between Madge, the ebullient housekeeper, and Gar's dour, embittered father, are masterfully understated.

Local color is heightened too in smaller roles with Hugo Yarden as the sly, convivial priest and Lupu Berkovitch as the frustrated village teacher.

Jazz giant Gerry Mulligan dies with his sax on

Gerry Mulligan, who has died of cancer at 68, virtually reinvented the baritone saxophone as a jazz instrument.

In the 1940s, Mulligan evolved a light, airy tone and agile phrasing which greatly enlarged the instrument's expressive range. The lithe clarity of Mulligan's playing was matched by the sharply defined melodic lines of his writing.

Along with Miles Davis, Gil Evans and others, he developed radical new forms of jazz composition.

Gerald Joseph Mulligan was born in New York on April 6,

1927. His father was an industrial engineer, whose work kept the family on the move. At about the age of nine, in Marietta, Ohio, Gerry had his first glimpse of musician's life. On his way to school he saw a bus parked in front of a local hotel. "It was a small old Greyhound bus with a canopied observation platform," he recalled, "and on the bus was printed 'Red Nichols And His Five Pennies.' It all symbolized travel and adventure. I was never the same after that."

In 1946, he moved to New York permanently to work with Gene Krupa's band. For Krupa,

Mulligan wrote "Disc Jockey Jump," which became a juke-box hit. The next year, he moved to Claude Thornhill's band and struck up a friendship with Thornhill's other arranger, Gil Evans, who introduced him to the circle of experimental players and writers working with Miles Davis in a revolutionary 10-piece band.

As a commercial venture, Davis's band was a failure, but its recordings were hugely influential and, issued later as an album entitled *The Birth of the Cool*, are regarded as classics. Of the 12 recorded pieces Mulligan wrote five.

After moving to California in 1952 he teamed up with trumpeter Chet Baker to form what was to become one of the most popular small bands of the decade, the Gerry Mulligan Quartet. This, too, was regarded as revolutionary, because it contained no piano or other chordal instrument.

Cool and fluent, with witty arrangements and tuneful, optimistic-sounding solos, the quartet's music remains some of the most charming in the history of jazz.

At the height of its fame, Mulligan was arrested on a drug charge and sentenced to 90 days in

prison. On his release he found that the group had melted away. Other quartets followed.

With his 13-piece Concert Jazz Band in the early 1960s, he perfected an already prodigious skill in manipulating orchestral color. In 1958, Mulligan began a long-term relationship with actress Judy Holliday and through her became interested in acting. He appeared in several films, including *The Subterraneans*.

In 1965, Holliday was diagnosed as suffering from terminal cancer, and although their love affair had ended, Mulligan gave up everything to nurse her through her final

months. He subsequently married actress Sandy Dennis.

The concert band played intermittently throughout the 1960s and 1970s, in the face of unsympathetic changes in jazz fashion, and Mulligan appeared regularly with the Dave Brubeck Quartet for some years.

His physical appearance changed dramatically, from clean-cut college boy to bearded prophet. By the 1980s, he was established as an international soloist and occasional bandleader, and he kept up a busy schedule until his final illness.

(The Daily Telegraph)

Pianist conquers Prokofiev; Ra'anana Symphonette gives signs of life

Beethoven's *Leonore* Overture No. 3, as curtain raiser in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's Subscription Concert No. 5, conducted by David Shallon, made one wonder whether its inclusion in the orchestra's planned European tour's program was motivated by the motto "Everything you can do I can do better."

Russian-born Anstol Ugraski is a pianist who does unexpected things. These include occasional, delicately spun, soft lyric passages, along with immensely powerful cadenzas of murderously technical demands in Prokofiev's Concerto No. 2. He obviously relished what he is doing. He is a musician with

his own individual style, but at the same time he manages to remain true to the work's style, which is admittedly a little eccentric.

Beethoven's *Symphonic Fantastique* was given an impassioned rendition. There was a noticeably elegant lilt in the Valse which evoked the different stringent moods of the changing movements. Although it is an ambitious endeavor, there seems a fair chance that the discriminating European audiences may respond favorably to this communicative performance.

Jerusalem Theater, January 17
Dry Eggplant

IT WAS as if a new orchestra was playing in Ra'anana. Under the baton of new musical director

Yuval Zeliuck, the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra looked and sounded like a group of musicians who were finally enthusiastic about their task.

This all-Mozart evening provided crisp playing and a full symphonic sound from an orchestra that has suffered considerably in its recent past.

The "Haffner" symphony was a tour de force, with charm, vitality and verve, and with alert and energetic playing and precise conducting. Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* for four wind instruments was a pure delight, its profound second movement the most sublime

moment of the evening.

Accolades go above all to the orchestra's four leading wind players, oboist Ilay Mishor, clarinetist Victor Berlin, bassoonist Elah Lahav and horn player Michael Slatkin who managed, each as individuals as well as an ensemble to create a magnificent sound scope.

In the first part of the evening, pianist Gilead Mishory left a lot to be desired in his rendition of Mozart's 24th (K.491) piano concerto, played with very little sensitivity and in a rather bland way.

But this was Zeliuck's evening and even more so that of the

brighter future.

Yad Labanim, Ra'anana, January 20
Michael Ajzenstadt

Seven, too-similar items

DANCE REVIEW
DORA SOWDEN

ARTISTIC Director Jeanette Ordman of the Bat-Dor Dance Company and her assistant Rosaline Subel-Kassel both figured on the program of the annual Winter Workshop at the Bat-Dor Theater in Tel Aviv (January 18), lending the performance a certain prestige.

Ordman had chosen to "adapt" a work by American Mark Haim — a work included in the Bat-Dor repertoire classes. It had the merit of suggesting baroque (even rococo) dance set to a Concerto Grosso by Handel (Opus 6 No. 7). Subel-Kassel used music by Shostakovich for 10 (Opus 6 No. 7). Subel-Kassel included Burundi drumming and Billie dancers in *Corsetta*. Anya Brud included Burundi drumming and Billie dancers in *Corsetta*. Anya Brud included Burundi drumming and Billie dancers in *Corsetta*. Anya Brud included Burundi drumming and Billie dancers in *Corsetta*.

The rest of the seven items had a sameness of attack in the dancing even when the methods ranged from toe steps to waltz moves and music from Bach to Holst, though Ilana Kaler's *Voices From Within* was set rather prettily to Ani Anki's songs.

More than usual were dancing — with an easy rhythm even in difficult lifts and with a sense of style beyond that of the women.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

| THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK END CHARTS | | ARTIST | TITLE |
|------------------------------------|-----|------------------|------------------------|
| #1 | 6 | VARIOUS ARTISTS | RABIN - GOODBYE FRIEND |
| #2 | 3 | MADONNA | SOMETHING TO REMEMBER |
| #3 | 1 | YEHUDA POLKER | THE CHILD IN YOU |
| #4 | 2 | ELTON JOHN | LOVE SONGS |
| #5 | 4 | FILM SOUND TRACK | DANGEROUS MINDS |
| #6 | 5 | VARIOUS ARTISTS | NOW 52 |
| #7 | 7 | ARKADI DUCHIN | ARKADI DUCHIN |
| #8 | 9 | ANGELS | VOICES |
| #9 | 10 | OASIS | MORNING GLORY |
| #10 | RE | VARIOUS ARTISTS | BG'S - DISCO IN TOWN |
| #11 | 11 | SADE | BEST OF |
| #12 | NEW | VARIOUS ARTISTS | PLATINUS 2 |
| #13 | 8 | FILM SOUND TRACK | FRISCELLA |
| #14 | 16 | THE BEATLES | ABBEY ROAD |
| #15 | NEW | VARIOUS ARTISTS | VOLUME 9 |

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1996

Gold rises to 2 1/2-year high

LONDON (Reuters) - Gold powered above the key \$400 an ounce market threshold yesterday, hitting a 2 1/2-year high when a stronger dollar prompted speculative buying in Asia.

It was fixed in the London bullion market at \$401.80 in the morning, its highest in the current "bull" market, after a strong finish on Friday when it ended just over \$399 in New York.

This inspired technical buying, while the strong dollar aroused interest among Japanese private investors.

Gold had languished below \$400 through most of the last two years, failing to attract speculative money, despite steady supply and good worldwide jewelry demand, especially in Asia.

Dealers said Australian producers might be selling at high levels since a combination of a weak local currency and the strong US dollar had pushed up domestic gold prices there.

Dealers added that positive comments on the strengthening dollar by finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial nations at the weekend might have encouraged speculative buying.

Hapoalim completes first stage of reorganization

Sivan: Bank won't need outside help to meet requirements of Brodet Report

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim has completed the first stage of a reorganization plan which will eventually separate its customers into four divisions, according to their needs and risk levels, general manager Amir Sivan said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference, Sivan said the plan involves strategic changes in bank branches and providing different services to different customers.

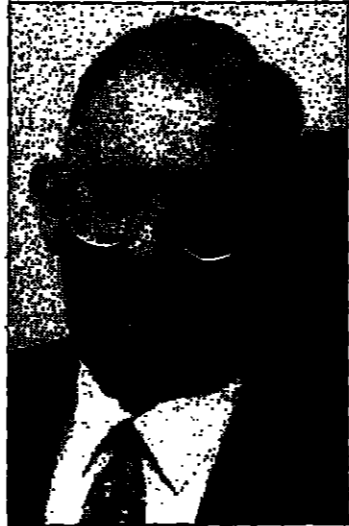
The plan is based on McKinsey international consultancy firm's recommendations, which proposed the division of Hapoalim's customers into sectors - households and general, private banking, business and conglomerates.

The sectors will be separated into four divisions managed by Hapoalim's senior management. The bank hopes to complete the reorganization plan by 1998.

"We are presently involved in building a new bank based on new principles, which consider customers' banking requirements in the next decade and the decade after that," said Sivan. "Over the years, customers' requirements have become more and more complex, widening the gap between different customers' needs and risk levels."

"We believe that as the services we provide become more complex and riskier, the expense to customers goes up, and for this reason the cost should be covered only by the sector requiring the services," he said.

At the start of the month, Hapoalim completed organization of its medium-sized business divi-



Sivan: The plan involves changes in branches and providing different services to different customers. (Sarit Uziel)

financial holdings this year as recommended by the Brodet Report without having to receive external help. Sivan was referring to rumors that Hapoalim may seek the Treasury's assistance in selling its excess nonbank holdings.

All local banks must cut their holdings in non-financial holdings to 25 percent or less by December 31 under new legislation which will be passed in upcoming weeks.

Should Hapoalim not sell all its excess nonbank holdings by the deadline, the assets will go into receivership and then be sold by the Treasury.

Hapoalim announced plans to equalize the voting rights of its subsidiary Ampal and reduce its holdings in the company to less than 25%, in an announcement to the American Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange at the end of last week.

The bank also said it plans to equalize the voting rights of Ampal's common stock with those of Ampal class A shares. As part of the proposal, Hapoalim will seek compensation for the reduction in voting rights.

Hapoalim owns 50.4% of Ampal's Class A stock and all the company's outstanding common stock.

The common stock, which is not traded publicly, entitles Hapoalim to 50% of Ampal's voting rights, no matter how many Class A shares it owns.

The bank also said it is soliciting proposals to acquire a portion of its holdings in Ampal.

son, which is managed by Joseph Dauber, Hapoalim joint managing director.

Dauber said the bank has established nine regional centers throughout the country which will serve all bank branches and employ managers in charge of customer relations.

These managers are each in charge of about 50 customers and have the authority to authorize all customer activities.

The next step in the reorganization process is operation of the private banking division, which is currently at the experimental stage in nine branches.

Sivan also announced that Hapoalim will complete procedures to reduce its holdings in non-fi-

Post Office handles 540 million pieces in '95

JUDY SIEGEL

DESPITE better electronic telecommunications, the Postal Authority handled a heavier mailbag last year - 540 million pieces compared to 507 million in 1994.

Postal Authority chairman Amos Mar-Haim and director-general Ran Levin said yesterday the average domestic letter takes 1.5 days to reach its destination, while the average wait in a post office line is 3.9 minutes.

Income for 1995 was estimated at NIS 985 million - or NIS 3.5m. more than was expected. Of the entire income, NIS 72m. was transferred to the state as royalties and in lieu of property.

An additional NIS 101m. was invested in equipment and computerization. Postal rates increased 3%, just under the inflation rate.

The main target this year is to turn the authority into a for-profit postal firm. The 1996 budget is NIS 1.118 billion, plus



Mar-Haim: Average wait in post office line is under four minutes. (Brian Handler)

from postal services and 12% from banking services.

NIS 124m. for investment in computerization, special projects, buying new buildings and renovating existing property.

Of the projected income for the year, some 75% will derive from postal services and 12% from banking services.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

ECI Telecom announced yesterday it has been named the sole supplier of HDSL transmission systems to British Telecom. The award of the \$18 million contract follows a competitive bid and technical evaluation. HDSL is a coding scheme which extends the range of standard transmission networks from 1-1.5 kilometers to 5 km. ECI Telecom is among the first companies to deploy HDSL in Europe.

By deploying ECI's ExLine2 access product, BT will be able to immediately extend transmission network range without having to install fiber optic cable. *Rachel Neiman*

First Beduin-operated supermarket to open: The first Beduin-operated supermarket, Markol HaNegev, will open in Rahat. SuperSol announced yesterday. The 1,200-meter store, a \$1.5 million investment is a SuperSol licensee. *Rachel Neiman*

Africa Israel Resorts has announced it will sponsor the 1996 National Monopoly championships. *Rachel Neiman*

South Koreans interested in investing here: The president of Korea Telecom has told Finance Minister Avraham Shohat that South Koreans want to invest in Israel, which he regards as a "meeting point between East and West." At a festive dinner held in Shohat's honor in South Korea over the weekend, Lee Gon said Israel and Korea have much in common, "and we intend to invest much in economic activities in Israel."

Shohat and his delegation were amazed to receive information booklets on Korea Telecom that had been fully translated into Hebrew. Shohat said he was aware of the interest of South Korean firms in investing here, and noted that the Israeli economy is open to competition.

Korea Telecom (most of whose shares are owned by the Korean government) is one of the partners in a consortium (with the US company Frontier and Lemni Investments) competing for the tender to supply overseas phone services in Israel. The investment group is headed by Aluf (res.) Giora Rom, a former IDF military attache in the US. *Judy Siegel*

Daimler-Benz cuts loose near-bankrupt Fokker

FRANKFURT (AP) - Daimler-Benz, Germany's biggest industrial group, announced yesterday it would contribute no more cash to save its Dutch aircraft subsidiary, Fokker, from insolvency after bailout talks with the Netherlands government failed.

Trading in Fokker shares was suspended on the Amsterdam stock exchange, and contingency plans were being made for the layoff of 7,800 people at five plants in what would be the biggest company shutdown in Dutch history.

"Profit comes before business volume," Daimler-Benz Chairman Juergen Schrepp said in a statement issued at company headquarters in Stuttgart after suspension of Daimler trading on the Frankfurt stock exchange during a supervisory board meeting.

The company said, "While more than 80 percent of our group core operations are running satisfactorily," Daimler would take losses of DM 6 billion for 1995, more than twice as much as had been predicted by analysts.

"In the interests of the stockholders, the performance of the entire company should no longer be spoiled by the remaining 20 percent," said the Daimler-Benz statement.

The losses were attributed to Fokker, which is 11% controlled by the Dutch government; and to restructuring of AEG, the money-losing electronics and railway division over which Daimler-Benz recently took complete control.

Options trading was also halted in Frankfurt and Berlin for AEG AG, and the Daimler statement said costs of restructuring AEG was estimated at DM 1.5b.

Allowing cash-starved Fokker to slide into bankruptcy will cost Daimler-Benz an additional DM 2.3b. in charges that will contribute to the record 1995 loss, the company said.

But Daimler officials had indicated during the weekend that, under German tax law, if they stop pouring money into Fokker and take the losses now, it can all be counted toward 1995 accounts.

The Daimler announcement indicated that was the probable strategy. It predicted the company would swing to a net profit in 1996.

Daimler has been extending a substantial amount of financial support to Fokker since Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG (DASA) became the majority shareholder in 1993.

The aerospace division itself has been one of Daimler-Benz's most troubled departments, costing DM 1.2b. in charges in the first half of 1995 to cover costs from the undervalued dollar. The aerospace division buys parts and sells its product in dollars but pays wages in marks.

Daimler-Benz Aerospace said last fall it would start moving production to other countries to remain competitive, and would cut 8,800 jobs in Germany over the next three years.

At a news conference, Schrepp admitted that DASA made a "big mistake" in buying Fokker in 1993, just as the aerospace market was deteriorating. Schrepp was DASA chairman at the time.

Schrepp said his company had been asking the Dutch to give an additional DM 1b. in emergency financial aid to keep Fokker afloat. But, he said, the Dutch did not respond.

He said it was up to others now to ensure Fokker's future.

Beirut Stock Exchange back in business after 13 years

BEIRUT (Reuters) - With the traditional ringing of a bell to open the session, the Beirut Stock Exchange resumed trading yesterday after a break of nearly 13 years caused by Lebanon's civil war.

Deputy trading floor chief Elissar Tamim rang the hand-held bell from the pre-war days of open outcry trading to announce the start of operations on the small, computerized trading floor set up by the Paris bourse.

"It's a fine day today... It's a good day. We are looking with great optimism on this step," declared acting Finance Minister Fouad Siniora, visiting the floor as trading began.

"I hope the modest beginning that we are starting with is going to attract more and more people and companies into the stock exchange," Siniora said.

The government of billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri sees the Beirut Stock Exchange as a key to the revival of Lebanon's capital markets and a future conduit for funds to flow into the country for national reconstruction.

But the restart, with three listed shares, was quiet compared with trading before the 1983 closure when 42 shares were listed and Beirut was the most active exchange in the Middle East.

Prices set at the fixing for the three shares - two cement companies and an industrial piping manufacturer - were in line with those on the Beirut grey market, which has been active in the stocks for years.

Ciments Libanais, Lebanon's second biggest company, was fixed at \$4.50-\$4.60 on the grey market, Ciments Blancs was \$6.875 (\$6.75-\$7.00) and industrial piping maker Eternit was \$3.375 (\$3.45-\$3.50).

Officials said the five authorized brokerage houses received a total of 40-50 buy and sell orders and 14,720 shares worth a total \$63,525 were traded.

"The prices and volume are realistic," said Nabil Aoun, president of the Beirut Stockbrokers Association and chairman of Ficus SAL, one of five brokerage houses. "I am very, very satisfied with the volume for the first day."

But the volume was dwarfed by the rival Beirut Secondary Market, a privately-owned market under central bank supervision which only trades shares of Solidere, Lebanon's biggest company which is rebuilding war-shattered central Beirut.

Yesterday's trade in Solidere shares totaled \$650,955 - 10 times the value of trade on the revived stock exchange.

However, BSE officials were heartened just before trading began by news that Solidere will move its shares to the Stock Exchange in the spring when its agreement with the private market expires.

"We anticipate that we will do that sometime in May," Solidere chairman Nasser Chamaa said.

"We are now in discussions with the Beirut Stock Exchange to implement all these steps."

Solidere's shares will boost the stock exchange, adding \$2 billion capitalization to the total capitalization of about \$500 million of the three listed companies.

Chamaa's statement was the first official indication from Solidere that it would move to the official exchange. It has been traded on the Beirut Secondary Market since mid-1994.

Other additions to the stock exchange are expected shortly.

The famed Casino du Liban, preparing to reopen this year, says its shares will return to the market in a week or two.

Stock exchange chairman Gabriel Sehnaoui says an investment fund and three new companies - two industrial companies and a real estate firm - have also applied for listings.

L'Oreal buys 35.5% more of Interbeauty

RACHEL NEIMAN

MULTINATIONAL L'Oreal has acquired an additional 35.5 percent share in Interbeauty for some \$8.5 million.

In 1994, L'Oreal invested \$7.5m. in return for a 30% stake in Interbeauty, making the local company part of the L'Oreal group but not a subsidiary.

L'Oreal has a policy not to consolidate companies in which it holds less than 50%.

As of this month, Interbeauty is now a subsidiary of L'Oreal, which now owns 65.5% of it.

L'Oreal started doing business through agents here 15 years ago, Interbeauty board chairman Gad Propper said. In 1987, Interbeauty switched its focus from Helena Rubinstein cosmetics

(part of the L'Oreal group) to L'Oreal itself.

"Now we are entering directly into the market," explained L'Oreal Europe general manager Franklin Berrebi, who was here yesterday to make the announcement.

The move is in line with L'Oreal's strategy to first enter markets through agents and then "when the company has reached the appropriate size to take over the majority." The strategy was recently implemented in both Poland and Taiwan.

Interbeauty's Migdal Ha'emek factory has doubled in size over the past two years, and "our plan is to redouble within the next two years," Propper said.

This country could "possibly become a regional supplier, depending on the development of Israel's relationships with its neighbors," Berrebi said.

The recently launched Interbeauty cosmetics line Natural Sea Beauty will receive marketing and sales support from L'Oreal.

Berrebi said he is happy with King's Road, the local agent for L'Oreal professional hair care products business, but said a merger "will probably be evolved. It's better to have every-

thing under the same management."

Although hampered by the lack of proper consumer indexes or rating system, Berrebi said marketing here "will be similar to other European countries."

Berrebi praised Israel's Western-style distribution channels, which include retail chains such as SuperPharm, Clal Pharm and privately owned perfumeries and pharmacies. He noted increasing interest on the food sector's part in creating larger cosmetics sections.

"This creates favorable conditions for market development," he said noting other factors such as the introduction of commercial TV, a high degree of newspaper and magazine readers and Israel's well-traveled population - "who know products and are interested in trying them."

Many, but not all, major L'Oreal consumer items are available here.

Propper said the practice of gradually introducing a limited number of brands was pragmatic. "We still can't support all the brands. [Support] takes money, resources and people."

He promised there would be three new launches this year.

Invest in the world's major exchanges with Israel Discount Bank

It's a Small World!

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

JERUSALEM DISTRICT ELECTRICITY COMPANY LTD.

Tender No. 2/96

11 & 33 KV LIGHTNING ARRESTERS

Bids are invited for the supply of 11 & 33 KV lightning arresters (tender no. 2/96).

A copy of the specifications and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Directors, 15 Salah El-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7 until February 8, 1996.

Bids should be submitted by 12 noon on February 29, 1996.

JERUSALEM DISTRICT ELECTRICITY COMPANY LTD.

Tender No. 3/96

400V HRC CARTRIDGE FUSE LINKS

Bids are invited for the supply of 400V HRC cartridge fuse links (tender no. 3/96).

A copy of the specifications and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Directors, 15 Salah El-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7 until February 8, 1996.

Bids should be submitted by 12 noon on February 29, 1996.

JERUSALEM DISTRICT ELECTRICITY COMPANY LTD.

Tender No. 4/96

HEAT SHRINKABLE JOINTS AND TERMINATIONS

Bids are invited for the supply of heat shrinkable joints and terminations (tender no. 4/96).

A copy of the specifications and conditions of tender may be obtained from the Secretary of the Board of Directors, 15 Salah El-Din Street, East Jerusalem, Tel. 282335/6/7 until February 8, 1996.

Bids should be submitted by 12 noon on February 29, 1996.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (23.1.96)

| Currency (deposit term) | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| U.S. dollar (250,000) | 4.825 | 4.500 | 4.250 |
| Found sterling (£100,000) | 4.875 | 4.575 | 4.250 |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 2.000 | 1.875 | 1.250 |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.275 |
| Yen (10 million yen) | | | |

(Shows vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.1.96)

| Currency | Buy | Sell | Rep. Rate* |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| U.S. dollar | 3.491 | 3.575 | 3.620 |
| German mark | 3.195 | 3.179 | 3.120 |
| Found sterling | 2.0815 | 2.125 | 2.118 |
| French franc | 4.681 | 4.757 | 4.68 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 0.6133 | 0.6232 | 0.61 |
| Dutch guilder | 2.8284 | 2.9707 | 2.87 |
| Swiss franc | 1.6887 | 1.6888 | 1.68 |
| Spanish peseta | 0.4573 | 0.4647 | 0.46 |
| Scandinavian krona | 0.4779 | 0.4857 | 0.48 |
| Denish krona | 0.8410 | 0.8488 | 0.84 |
| Finland mark | 0.6271 | 0.6352 | 0.62 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.2587 | 2.3033 | 2.24 |
| Australian dollar | 2.2283 | 2.3048 | 2.22 |
| S. African rand | 0.9468 | 0.9527 | 0.97 |
| Indian rupee (100) | 1.0182 | 1.0369 | 1.00 |
| Arabian sheqel (10) | 2.9703 | 3.0241 | 2.92 |
| Israeli sheqel (1000) | 1.9474 | 1.9799 | 1.91 |
| Jordanian dinar | | | 2.01 |
| Guatemalan quetzal | | | 4.55 |
| EGP | | | 0.86 |
| Irish punt | | | 0.96 |
| South African rand | | | 5.01 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | | | 4.867 |
| | | | 2.006 |

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Both indexes rise slightly

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS closed little changed yesterday, as many investors hold index options that expire this week and will be profitable if the Maof Index stays at current levels.

"The only thing that holds back the market is the Maof options expiring Thursday," said Idan Azoulay, who manages about \$70 million in securities for BLT Securities here.

Fourth-quarter earnings reports also should start trickling in this week. "The sentiment is quite positive," he said.

The Two-Sided Index closed up 0.2 percent at 211.26, while the Maof Index advanced 0.17 percent to 220.41.

The most active issue was holding company Clal Israel, which went up 2.5 percent on turnover of more than NIS 10.2m.

More than NIS 118m. of shares

FTSE Index closes firmer

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON - Leading shares closed modestly firmer, leaving the FTSE 100 at a new record. Traders said the market appeared to be consolidating after a near 100-point rise in six trading sessions.

Prices remain supported by hopes of further UK rate cuts, but the mood is tempered with concerns over the US bond market, which is troubled by national derivatives-related transactions influenced trade.

The FTSE 100 closed 5.8 points up at 3,754.2.

FRANKFURT - Shares ended lower, interrupting its record run due to the suspension of Daimler-Benz AG shares because of news it would post a 1995 loss of DM 6 billion.

The 30-share DAX Index ended down 8.23 points at 2,390.53 and near the session low of 2,387.30. The index ended IBIS electronic trading unchanged from the bourse closing, finishing the day at 2,391.74.

PARIS - Shares finished lower as investors took profits on a bourse's recent gains. "People aren't really sellers but, at these prices, they aren't buyers either, which explains the dearth of exchanges," a trader said.

The bourse, which was higher most of the day, was also pressured by late profit-taking in the bond market. The CAC-40 Index closed down 9.86, at 1,954.42.

ZURICH - Shares ended mixed after a volatile day and dealers said the slightly easing dollar and lower government bond futures pressured the market. The firmer opening on Wall Street had a supportive effect on prices and activity was less hectic as compared to last week when

average ended 34.68 points higher at 5,219.36.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by 11 to 10 on moderate volume of 396 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Blue chips end higher for third day running

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks closed higher for the third consecutive session yesterday as investors snapped up some economically sensitive shares.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones Industrial

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: CURRENCY, MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FFF. Rows include MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FFF.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes, categorized by Commercial Banks, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Trade & Services, and Investment Companies.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Table of international stock prices, categorized by NEW YORK, LONDON, and other markets.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

INFLATION STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, NYSE Index, etc.

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, Hang Seng, etc. table.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks listed in NY, including Am I, Am I P, etc.

INFLATION MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates table showing Pound, DM, S franc, etc.

Labor rates

Table of labor rates for various countries and durations.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Advertisement for CommStock Trading Ltd. with logo and contact info.

INFLATION COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices like Cocoa, Sugar, etc.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices like Coffee, Wheat, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices like Gold, Silver, etc.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices like Gold, Silver, etc.

Small text at the bottom left corner.

Becker reaches quarter-finals

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - German fourth seed Boris Becker flirted with danger against New Zealand's Brett Steven at the Australian Open yesterday, dropping a set before storming home to seal his place in the last eight.

World No. 4 Becker beat the 37th ranked Steven 1-6 6-4 6-3 6-2 in two hours 16 minutes, completing the match with an ace to set up a quarter-final clash with Russia's world number six Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Becker looked out of sorts in the first set, losing five straight games and allowing the athletic Steven to take control at the net.

But as so often with Becker, he got a grip on himself and his game, using lightning reflexes at the net and booming aces on the important points to put Steven on the back foot and transform the match, running away with the next three sets.

Becker put his first set drub-

bing down to difficulty in fathoming out Steven's weaknesses because he had only played him once before in 1994, a match the New Zealander won.

"I really had to think hard and dig deeper," said Becker who described the turning point as breaking Steven's serve while down a break at 2-3 in the second set.

"It was a good thing I broke him right back. All of a sudden my game was a notch better."

Becker, who also had two nail-biting five setters on his way to the last 16, has now posted his best performance at an Australian Open since winning the title in 1991.

Becker joins Kafelnikov, world No. 2 Andre Agassi, world No. 5 Michael Chang, eighth seed Jim Courier, unseeded Australian Mark Woodforde, and Swedes Thomas Enqvist and Mikael Tillstrom.

Earlier story in *World of Sport* supplement.

PREMIER LEAGUE SCOREBOARD

Last night's results: West Ham 0, Manchester United 1.

Jerusalem moves into first

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

THE first half of the National Basketball League season came to an electrifying end last night when Hapoel Jerusalem scored an 89-83 overtime victory against Maccabi Rishon LeZion to take sole possession of first place.

Jerusalem's superb form from the free throw line (7 of 8) in overtime was the difference as Hapoel recovered from a last second lay-up by Brian Oliver that had sent the game into the extra period.

It was Billy Thompson who got Jerusalem on track in OT with a jumper, a remarkable feat considering Thompson had been whistled for his third foul with the game only less than seven minutes old.

His departure hurt Jerusalem on both sides of the floor, and also turned the first half into an unattractive match-up of two spitting offenses.

Fortunately for Jerusalem, Norris "The Sergeant" Coleman on hand, doing his regular tour of duty as Jerusalem's main man. His 12 first half points kept Jerusalem narrowly ahead 37-35 at intermission.

The 2,500 fans at Malha and those watching the cable TV broadcast of the game at home wondering when they were going to see what had been billed as a

match-up of two of the league's premier teams got more than their money's worth in the second half.

Just when it looked like Jerusalem was going to put coach Roni Bosani's club away with a combination of stifling defense on Oliver and James Gully and Coleman's continued sharpshooting, the game got close. Leading 50-39 with 16:30 left, Jerusalem saw its lead slip slowly away until Oliver raced all the way across the court for a lay-up to draw Rishon to 57-56 with 10 minutes left.

Jerusalem captain Adi Gordon hit two three-pointers after returning to the game following a head-on collision with Zufer Avadia of Rishon, and a Pini Levy offensive rebound basket gave Jerusalem a 65-59 cushion. But Rishon's Moti Ben-Bassat hit two clutch hoops, one a three-pointer, and the gritty Rishon squad stayed close.

Coleman's bank shot with 2:00 left gave Jerusalem a 76-72 lead, but Gully and then Oliver scored to tie it again. With nine seconds remaining, Coleman hit two foul shots, but the meteoric Oliver took the inbound pass and somehow snuck inside for a game-ty-

ing lay-up just before the buzzer.

The comeback seemed to take everything out of Rishon, however. In overtime, their offense was flat, while Jerusalem was sharp. Gordon, Papi Turgeman - who had several fine offensive moves on the night and held Oliver in check until late in the second half - and Thompson, still around at the end, stepped up to the line and nailed their free throws to earn Jerusalem its place at the top of the standings.

Rishon (7-4) deserves a great deal of credit for taking Jerusalem to overtime at Malha, as does Jerusalem backcourt reserve Ro'i Eyal, whose three-point basket and defense gave Jerusalem a shot in the arm while Gordon was out.

Coleman led Jerusalem with 28 points, while Gordon had 17, Thompson 14 and Turgeman 13. Oliver led Rishon with 21, 17 in the second half and OT, while Gully added 15.

National Basketball League

| Team | W | L | Pts. |
|---------------------------|----|---|------|
| 1. Hapoel Jerusalem | 10 | 1 | 21 |
| 2. Hapoel Tel Aviv | 10 | 1 | 21 |
| 3. Hapoel Galil Ezyon | 7 | 4 | 18 |
| 4. Maccabi Rishon | 7 | 4 | 18 |
| 5. Hapoel Netanya | 6 | 5 | 17 |
| 6. Hapoel Ashdod | 6 | 5 | 17 |
| 7. Hapoel Haifa | 4 | 7 | 15 |
| 8. Maccabi Jerusalem | 3 | 8 | 14 |
| 9. Hapoel Be'er Sheva | 3 | 8 | 14 |
| 10. Hapoel Ramat Gan | 2 | 9 | 13 |
| 11. Maccabi Rishon LeZion | 2 | 9 | 13 |

Tampa Bay Buccaneers hire Dungy as coach

TAMPA (AP) - Tony Dungy's long and frustrating journey from the NFL's youngest defensive coordinator to a head coach ended on yesterday.

The long-time assistant, interviewed but passed over by four other teams in the last 10 years, will get a shot at trying to turn the Tampa Bay Buccaneers into a winner.

"I feel that they are very, very close," the 40-year-old Dungy said at a news conference announcing his six-year contract as the sixth coach of the National Football League club.

The Bucs have young players and a nucleus ready to take off. The building blocks are there, he said, all the team needs is consistency.

He became only the fourth black head coach in NFL history, behind Art Shell, Dennis Green and Ray Rhodes.

Dungy said his first goal is to build a sense of family and togetherness with everybody striv-

ing for the same end - a winning team.

The Bucs haven't made the playoffs or finished above .500 since 1982.

The soft-spoken Dungy has been interviewed for at least five other NFL vacancies in the last 10 years - twice by the Philadelphia Eagles and once each by the Green Bay Packers, Pittsburgh Steelers and Jacksonville Jaguars.

GUESS WHAT?

What was the name of the first "Super Bowl"?

AFL-NFL World Championship Game

World Bowl

Champions Bowl

Bud Bowl

Answer tomorrow.

Answer to yesterday's "Guess Who": Marcus Allen holds the record for longest run from scrimmage in Super Bowl history, with 74 yards vs Washington in the 1984 Super Bowl.

NBA leaders

(through January 21)

| Player | PTS | REB | AST | STL | BLK | FG PCT | FT PCT | Team |
|-----------------|------|------|------|-----|-----|--------|--------|--------------|
| Scottie Pippen | 28.7 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Chicago |
| Charles Barkley | 28.3 | 12.0 | 6.2 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 55.8 | 79.0 | Philadelphia |
| Kevin McHale | 27.5 | 11.5 | 4.5 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 55.8 | 81.4 | Boston |
| John Stockton | 27.1 | 5.1 | 11.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Jazz |
| Tim Duncan | 26.8 | 11.1 | 4.5 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 55.8 | 79.0 | San Antonio |
| Grant Hill | 26.7 | 7.8 | 5.1 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Pistons |
| Alvin Robertson | 26.7 | 5.1 | 11.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Portland |
| Scottie Pippen | 26.7 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Chicago |
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| Grant Hill | 26.7 | 7.8 | 5.1 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Pistons |
| Alvin Robertson | 26.7 | 5.1 | 11.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Portland |
| Scottie Pippen | 26.7 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Chicago |
| Charles Barkley | 26.7 | 12.0 | 6.2 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 55.8 | 79.0 | Philadelphia |
| Kevin McHale | 26.7 | 11.5 | 4.5 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 55.8 | 79.0 | Boston |
| John Stockton | 26.7 | 5.1 | 11.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 48.4 | 83.7 | Jazz |
| Tim Duncan | 26.7 | 11.1 | 4.5 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 55.8 | 79.0 | |

Bipartisan move aims to change electoral system

LIAT COLLINS

THE Labor Knesset faction yesterday unanimously decided to change the electoral system, however the change would only affect the elections for the 15th Knesset, scheduled for 2000.

The idea being proposed is to divide Knesset lists into 60 candidates to be elected on a regional basis and 60 on a national one.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres supported the idea. Likud leader Binjamin Netanyahu, although in favor, expressed reservations.

Peres reminded the MKs that the Labor Party conference had supported a mixed national and regional election system.

He said it is inconceivable that the prime minister be elected in direct elections and the Knesset through a proportional system.

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish claimed that the Knesset now favors changing the system, and that Labor should not let the small parties veto it.

Before the faction meeting, a different discussion had been held on the subject with Justice Minister David Liba'i, Internal

Security Minister Moshe Shahal, Netanyahu, Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, Labor secretary-general Nissim Zvilli, Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav, Haggai Merom (Labor), and Dedi Zucker (Meretz).

The background to the meeting was a bill drawn up by eight MKs from different parties. The proposal speaks of two options: either 60 MKs being chosen on a regional basis and 60 on a national basis, or 30 MKs being elected regionally and 90 nationally.

The latter is preferred by the National Religious Party, whose MKs are also seeking to change the current system.

Zucker said the bill could pass this Knesset and go into effect for the elections in 2000.

Liba'i said the Knesset has been dealing with the issue for eight years, and "it is time to make a decision."

The proposal preserves the proportional principle so as not to upset the smaller parties. The

country would be divided into 20 regions; three MKs would be elected for each region.

Shahal said that to maintain a consensus, the reform should be carried out in two stages, 30:90 first and then 60:60. Zvilli suggested raising the electoral threshold from 1.5 percent to 2%.

Katsav warned against harming the representation of smaller parties and said that ideally at least a third of the Knesset should be from smaller factions. He suggested creating a committee of MKs and academics to submit recommendations.

Netanyahu said that although the principle of direct elections is important, there are certain faults with the proposed bill, above all that the smallness of the country would make it difficult to divide it into 20 regions. He also suggested establishing a committee of MKs to present their recommendations within a month.

Zvilli said postponing the decision by a month could result in burying the bill.

Ouman flares up; Polgat reneges on deal

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE dispute between Polgat and workers at the Ouman textile plant in Ofakim flared up again yesterday, as Polgat reneged on the severance pay agreement reached 10 days ago.

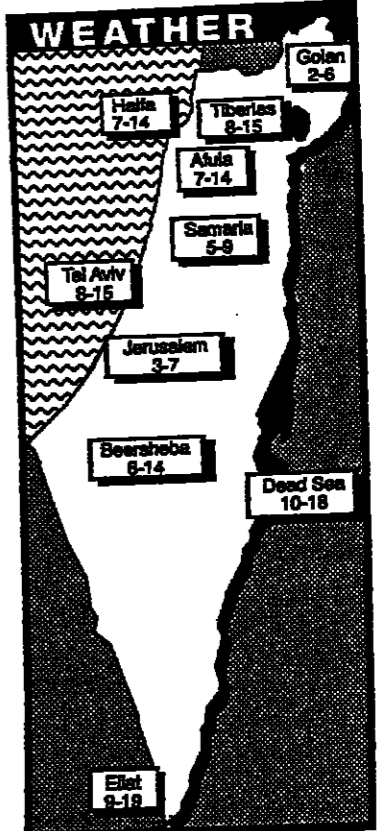
As a result, Ouman's workers again barricaded themselves in the closed plant and set fire to tires at the entrance, while the Histadrut gave the workers a free hand in their contacts with management.

Polgat, which had agreed after exhausting negotiations to pay Ouman's 130 fired workers severance pay ranging from 45% to 95% above the required minimum, announced yesterday that the basis for calculating the pay is 72% less than the sum previously agreed upon.

In addition, Polgat stated that it would not include the benefits component in the workers' wages - 30% of their pay - as part of the severance pay agreement.

Evelyn Gordon adds:

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved NIS 4 million to combat unemployment in Ofakim, which has recently suffered the closure of several factories, such as Ouman. The money will be used to finance transportation to jobs in other towns, as well as to provide incentives for agricultural work.



AROUND THE WORLD

| City | Low | High | Weather |
|--------------|-----|------|---------|
| Amsterdam | 4 | 10 | cloudy |
| Berlin | 10 | 20 | cloudy |
| Buenos Aires | 22 | 32 | clear |
| Chicago | 22 | 32 | clear |
| London | 10 | 15 | cloudy |
| Los Angeles | 15 | 25 | cloudy |
| Madrid | 10 | 20 | clear |
| Moscow | 10 | 20 | cloudy |
| New York | 15 | 25 | cloudy |
| Paris | 10 | 20 | cloudy |
| Rome | 15 | 25 | cloudy |
| Sydney | 15 | 25 | cloudy |

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, 7 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and 7 of clubs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

GSS gets extension on measures
The Ministerial Committee on the General Security Service yesterday extended by three months the GSS's permit to use "special" measures, including "moderate physical pressure," during interrogations.

The meeting was attended by outgoing GSS head Karmi Gillon and the new chief, Ami Ayalon. Missing from yesterday's deliberations was Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal. *tim*

'Poland should return Jewish property'
Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan met yesterday with Poland's Special Envoy to the Jewish Diaspora Kazimierz Slivinsky and told him his government should pass legislation to restore Jewish property lost during the Holocaust. Dayan suggested that such restitution begin with Jewish public property, the proceeds of which could be devoted to restoring many Jewish sites in Poland. He also asked for Poland to support the establishment of a museum of the heritage of Polish Jewry. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Knesset panel to discuss check cashing
The Knesset Finance Committee will hold a meeting next week on a television report stating that banks do not verify signatures on checks up to NIS 1,500. The banks explained that such checks are insured, so it is not worth the manpower to examine each signature. However, the committee wants to make sure customers are really protected. *Evelyn Gordon*

Bill would ground overloaded truckers
Truck drivers who overload their vehicles by 25 percent or more above the legal limit, or who spend more hours behind the wheel than the law permits, could have their trucks grounded for 30 days, according to a bill approved by the Knesset Economics Committee for first reading yesterday. The bill, by Gideon Patt (Likud), was supported by Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar, who noted that overloaded trucks accounted for about 40% of all accidents involving trucks last year. *Evelyn Gordon*

Payis sales '95 reached NIS 1.65 b.
Mifal Hapayis sales last year amounted to some NIS 1.65 billion, director Gideon Gadot announced yesterday. This represents a 17 percent growth in lottery ticket sales over 1994, he said. Gadot singled out the "Hish-Gad" instant winner item as the sales growth leader; at NIS 510 million, it increased 45% compared to 1994. The Mifal Hapayis budget for 1996 is NIS 2.1b., up 23% over last year. *Jerusalem Post Staff*



Paratroopers light memorial candles last night at Beit Lid, at a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the terrorist bombing. Twenty soldiers and one civilian were killed, and scores wounded, in the assault by a suicide bomber. (Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

...AND OTHER DRIED FRUIT AT FESTIVE PRICES

FIGS, DATES

FIGS
Dried, loose
per 100g

CHOICE APRICOT
per 100g

PINE NUTS
per 100g

WATERMELON SEEDS
per 100g

MAHJUL DATES
Erri dates
Dekel Noor dates
Blanched raisins
Dark raisins
Choice apricot
Figs
Prunes
Candied banana
Candied papaya
Candied pineapple
Carobs
Apples
Pears
Leder
Candied Chinese oranges
Coconuts

PISTACHIO
Cashew nuts
Peanuts
Peanuts in shells
Almonds
Fried beans
Humus
Black (sunflower)
White (pumpkin)
Watermelon

SHELLED WALNUTS - NATURAL
Shelled pecans - natural
Shelled almonds - natural
Shelled hazelnuts - natural
Walnuts in shells

BAKING/COOKING
Pine nuts
Blanched almonds
Ground almonds
Ground peanuts

COATED SNACKS
Chinese pecans
Candied almonds
Coated peanuts
Kabukim

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